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WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

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Michelle Azar plays Ruth Bader Ginsburg in one-woman play

Sandor Slomovits interviews Michelle Azar

A new play, *All Things Equal: The Life and Trials of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*, is coming to the Michigan Theater in March. Written by the prolific, multiple-Tony Award winning playwright Rupert Holmes, best known for his musicals *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Curtains*, and the one-man play *Say Goodnight, Gracie*, this new one-woman play stars the Los Angeles-based actor Michelle Azar, who has two special connections to Ann Arbor. She is the daughter-in-law of well-known Ann Arbor residents Marianne and Ron Aaron, and her daughter Adina is a senior in the U-M School of Music and Dance. Azar, 50, has been a professional actor all her adult life with many theatre and TV credits. I spoke with her via Zoom in January while she was on break from touring the RBG play since October 2022.

Michelle Azar

Sandor Slomovits: You've been immersed in theater all your life.

Michelle Azar: Absolutely. I grew up a total tap dancer, I did every musical, but what intrigued me was the storytelling and the emotional life of things. So, I went to New York University and studied drama, and then proceeded to do no plays, only musicals for a million years. When I met Jonathan, (husband, Jonathan Aaron, Rabbi of Temple Emanuel in Beverly Hills) I was doing a couple of off-Broadway musicals and, I'll say it jokingly, he sort of dragged me kicking and screaming to LA. There was not much musical theater here then. I started a theater company with my fellow NYU friends, and we all got agents and started working in TV and film. I'm still getting TV jobs, but in the last many years it's been more theater. I think it's so beautiful, as I'm aging, I'm getting back into that which called me originally.

Slomovits: There was also music in your family.

Azar: Yes, my goodness. My mom's maiden name is Singer, and we laugh because, she really was a professional singer for much of my childhood. Meanwhile though, she's also an academic — talk about renaissance women — as she was raising four kids and preparing for singing engagements she studied to get her PhD in psychology.

Slomovits: So, the story of RBG is not unfamiliar territory for you.

Azar: Thank you for noting the similarities. When I first heard about the play, I understood why I was getting the audition. I'm petite and I have this quality of energy. But between you and I, and whomever else you tell in this newspaper, I don't think I'd ever [before then] said the words "Supreme Court." (Laughter). It's not that I'm not political, but I'm certainly not savvy. So, this has been both hugely satisfying and terrifying. Any word you're saying on stage, you have to back it up. I insist on knowing the nuance of everything, and there just was no way to learn all that in the short time that we

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Two community collaboration grants awarded

By Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor is delighted to announce two grants that have been awarded to local initiatives with the goal of promoting cross-organizational collaboration and innovation in the local Jewish community. One grant was awarded from the Zelma Weisfeld Fund for Culture and Education, and the other is from Federation's Community Engagement Fund.

Playwright Ori Urian

The inaugural Zelma Weisfeld Fund grant was awarded to the Center for Jewish Studies (CJS) at Eastern Michigan University for collaboration with Spinning Dot Theatre and in partnership with Engage@EMU and the EMU School of Communications, Media & Theater Arts. The initiative funded is staging of the American debut of *Connected*, a play by the Israeli playwright Ori Urian. As part of the project, Urian will visit Washtenaw County as artist-in-residence at Spinning Dot Theatre. In partnership with the Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation, and other local Jewish organizations, the playwright will engage broadly with the Ann Arbor area Jewish community, including through workshops and programs about theater and culture in Israel. The Zelma Weisfeld Fund for Culture & Education is made possible through a bequest from Zelma Weisfeld z"l.

Idan Chabasov AKA The Challah Prince

"I'm excited to bring Ori Urian, a major Israeli playwright, to our community," said Bob Erlwine, Director of CJS. "His presence in Ann Arbor as a cultural ambassador is sure to be of wide interest to a variety of different constituencies in the Jewish community (and beyond)." The date for Urian's 2023 visit to Washtenaw County are still to be determined.

Idan Chabasov, Challah Prince

The second of the recently-awarded grants, from the Community Engagement Fund, was awarded to a collaboration that includes Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, Ann Arbor Reconstruction-

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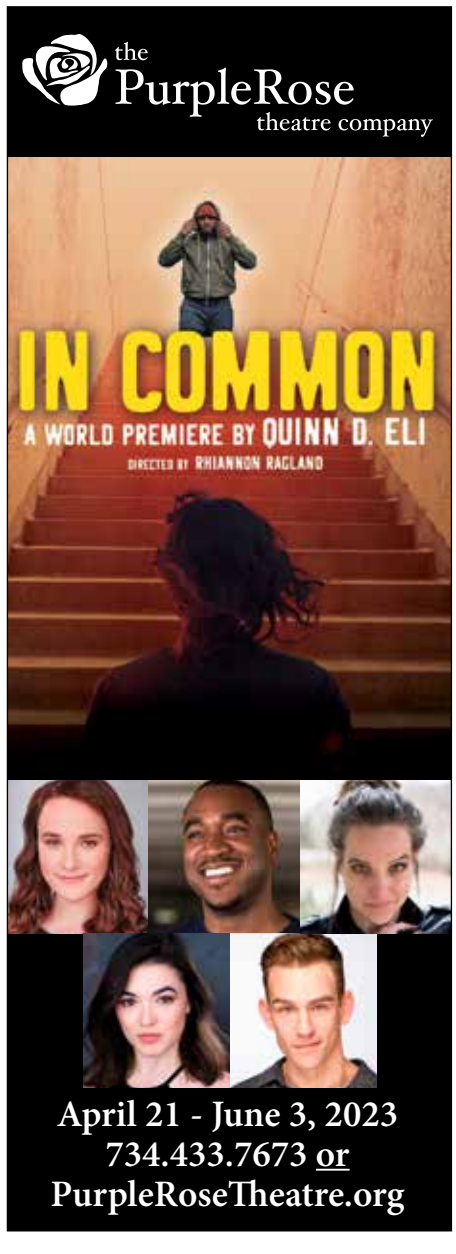

From the Editor

Where do you get the WJN?

On February 17, I attended a LGBTQ Shabbat potluck at Temple Beth Emeth (there will be another one on March 17, see calendar page 18). The thirty or so folks there ranged in age from high school through late seventies; the food was great and the atmosphere completely informal. There was no "agenda;" just queers gathered around a table talking. After eating, I put on my *Washtenaw Jewish News* hat and handed out copies of the newspaper. Only a small percentage of the people at the Jewish queer Shabbat receive the WJN in the mail: most had never seen the newspaper. This is my challenge: I try to look at the newspaper through the eyes of young, looking-to-connect Jewish and Jewish-adjacent folks to make sure they will find relatable news and views.

Clare Kinberg

The WJN is mailed free of charge to anyone in Washtenaw County who asks for it. If you would like to receive the paper, send your mailing address (and update changes of address) to ckinbergeditor@washtenawjewishnews.org. Currently, about 3200 addresses received the paper, and I distribute several hundred at local libraries and businesses. By far, the most popular places for picking up a copy of the WJN are the downtown Ann Arbor library and Barry's Bagels: I never seem to be able to leave enough. Clearly, books and bagels are our community's common denominators. I'd love to know where you get your WJN: drop me a note anytime. ■

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Jewish joy and conversation: JCLP brings simcha to the stage

By Jorgen Reberg and Abby Calef, Second Year JCLP Students

Each year, the students from the Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) at the University of Michigan School of Social Work host a Communal Conversation event to bring the community together to engage with a pressing and relevant issue. In a slight departure from tradition, this year's JCLP second-year cohort decided to focus on what it means to live Jewishly through radical joy and celebration. In an event titled "Joyful Jewish Jams," the Communal Concert will aim to highlight Jewish joy as a means to fuel tradition, build connection, and engage in community-centric healing. The concert will take place at The Ark on Monday, March 27, with doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the concert beginning at 7 p.m. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Batya Levine and Aly Halpert are two musicians who use song to deepen community and what it means to be Jewish in all its complexity. Participating in niggunim (wordless melodies), and singing in Hebrew and English, Batya and Aly's music encourages community participation, which is precisely the point: "We're envisioning a night where people can come together in song and leave feeling connected with the neighbor who sat in the audience next to them," says Elana Lambert, second-year JCLP student.

Batya has shared their dazzling music and ritual expertise with Ann Arbor many times in the past, as has Aly, who was born and raised right here in our city. Batya and Aly's music centers on the meaning of community, and invites those listening to consider the role of music in cultivating personal and communal relationships. Following the concert, there will be a Q&A session for anyone eager to learn more from Batya and Aly.

For the students of the Jewish Communal Leadership Program, the decision to host a concert rather than a traditional forum is based on their commitment to bridging communication barriers and promoting exchange of ideas in creative, immersive ways; music is a means of engagement that promotes a sense of connection through listening and singing along. Responses to music span the range of human experience, and musical connection can be one of comfortable familiarity or the palpable exhilaration of having heard something new for the very first time. No matter what your connection to Jewish music, the students invite you to share with us in our joy on March 27, hoping that it will strengthen your sense of community and connection. In today's never-ending news cycle, it is easy to forget not only what connects us all, but also the importance of joy in our lives — and especially Jewish joy. It is for this reason that the Jewish Communal Leadership Program is proud to invite everyone from the Ann Arbor community and beyond to a celebration of Jewish music, connection, and joy.

As second-year students invite the community to join in music, joy, and connection, JCLP's first-year students invite community members to come together for a community meetup at the JCC for an intergenerational conversation focusing on the question of "Building Jewish Community Post-COVID." The meetup will convene at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening, March 15. Again, all are welcome.

Whether for conversation or for song, JCLP students hope to be a part of strengthening and connecting the Ann Arbor Jewish community in the weeks ahead.

The Communal Concert is made possible by the generous support of The Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan Hillel, Beth Israel Congregation of Ann Arbor, The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, The Well Detroit, and the University of Michigan School of Social Work Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. RSVP to the event at https://ssw.umich.edu/r/joyful-jams. ■

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Universal human rights is a Jewish religious obligation: Rabbi Arik Ascherman visits Ann Arbor

Leonore Gerstein, special to the WJN

The American-born Israeli Rabbi Arik Ascherman, recognized as a role model for faith-based human rights activism, returns to Michigan March 29–30 as part of his speaking tour across the United States. His topic will be "Pursuing a Progressive Human Rights Agenda in the New/Old Israeli Reality."

In recent weeks, many in the Jewish world have been puzzled and even dismayed by the potentially anti-democratic trends within Israel's political leadership. But even so, we have taken heart in Israel's vigorous grassroots opposition to the internal threats to its democratic traditions. The weekly protests across Israel serve as a reminder that for decades, its citizens' concern for social justice has been alive and well all along. There could hardly be a more opportune time for the greater Ann Arbor Jewish community to welcome and hear from one of the warriors for justice in Israel: Rabbi Arik Ascherman.

Rabbi Ascherman is best known for having led Rabbis for Human Rights for 21 years in Israel and for his founding of the Israeli NGO and human rights organization Torat Tzedek (Torah of Justice) in 2017. Rabbi Ascherman and Torat Tzedek received the Rabbi David J. Forman Memorial Fund's Human Rights Prize for 5779 (2018–2019). In the words of Torat Tzedek (torat-tzedek.org.il), "Rabbi Ascherman's niche through the years has been to work for universal human rights as a Jewish religious obligation, and to present the foundation for this obligation in Jewish sources. Rather than remaining behind a desk, he has always believed that in the human rights field we must have one foot in the grass roots, and the other among the decision and opinion makers."

Rabbi Ascherman adds, "the greatest successes of the organizations I have worked with have been the result of field work that gave us knowledge and a moral voice when we went to the court, the Knesset (Israel's parliament), the public, the international community and/or the press … Torat Tzedek works for the human rights of both Jews and non-Jews (and) on issues on which (our) input, combined with others' work on a given issue, might tip the scales."

Current Torat Tzedek projects include accompanying and protecting Palestinian farmers and shepherds, support of the High Court's rulings that address the treatment of Palestinian farmers (the Morar Rulings), public housing, and home demolitions in East Jerusalem.

On Wednesday, March 29, Rabbi Ascherman will lead a seminar for the graduate students at the University of Michigan's Jewish Communal Leadership Program. Members of J Street Michigan are invited to this event. Please note that it is not open to the general public.

On Thursday, March 30, Rabbi Ascherman will join the community at two evening events at the Greater Ann Arbor Jewish Community Center. At 6 p.m. he will be the honoree at a fundraising dinner. All members of the community who wish to support Rabbi Ascherman's work are encouraged to join him in this conversational setting. The cost of the dinner is $100 per person.

At 7:30 p.m., following the fundraising dinner, the public is invited to Rabbi Ascherman's talk about Torat Tzedek's current work, followed by a dessert reception. The 7:30 event is free.

At this writing, several additional educational events with Rabbi Ascherman are in the final planning stages, among them a Lunch and Learn at Temple Beth Emeth or Beth Israel Congregation.

For more information on these events and to reserve your seat at the March 30 dinner, please contact organizers Leonore Gerstein, Lbmgerst@gmail.com, 734-930-1673, or Martha Kransdorf, mkransdo@umich.edu, 734-678-0416

To learn more about Torat Tzedek, please visit their website: torat-tzedek.org.il

Rabbi Ascherman's visit to Ann Arbor is co-sponsored by the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation, Beth Israel Congregation's Social Action Committee, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, Pardes Hannah, Jewish Cultural Society, and Temple Beth Emeth.

Note: The opinions expressed by Rabbi Ascherman are his own and do not necessarily reflect the views of Beth Israel's leadership, membership, clergy, or staff. ■

Michigan's 1913 copper miner strike with author Beth Kirschner

Bernie Banet, special to the WJN

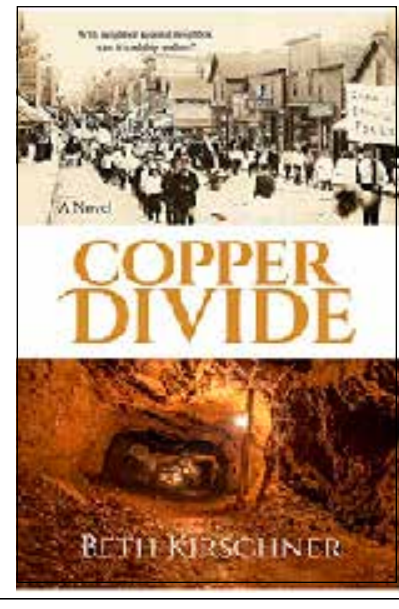
The Jewish Cultural Society's Second Friday Schmooze series invites the community to hear author Beth Kirschner

speak about her novel, *Copper Divide*, and the historical events surrounding Michigan's 1913 Italian Hall Disaster. The Schmooze will be on March 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center.

Beth Kirschner's writing has moved from poetry to travel journals, short stories, and novels. When not writing, she works as a software engineer, flies single engine airplanes, and enjoys exploring Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She has two grown children, two large cats, and a room of her own for imagining her next story. Beth Kirschner has also been the president of Ann Arbor's Jewish Cultural Society.

Copper Divide chronicles one woman's story of friendship tested by a society torn apart by the violent Upper Peninsula copper miners' strike that resulted in the 1913 Italian Hall Disaster. In the once-peaceful community surrounding Calumet, Michigan, thousands are protesting and rioting in the streets. The National Guard is sent in and stays for months. Kirschner's protagonist, Hannah Weinstein, is a Jewish merchant's daughter, certain that the interruption of her college classes is the worst the strike will bring to her relatively comfortable life. Her Finnish friend, Nelma, however, is married to a striker and places herself on the front lines of the dispute.

When a train pulls in with a hundred scab miners, tensions escalate, and two of the scabs are shot. Their murder compels Hannah to join a Citizen's Alliance opposing the strike — and with it, Nelma. As the strike grows more and more deadly, Hannah and Nelma must find a way to reconcile and end the conflict without further violence, or their town — and their friendship — will be destroyed forever. ■



Gary Shteyngart to deliver Belin Lecture

Jillian Luciow, special to the WJN

The *New York Times* bestselling author Gary Shteyngart will be delivering the 33rd David W. Belin Lecture in American Jewish Affairs in a hybrid event on March 16. The lecture will begin at 6 p.m. in the Weiser Hall 10th Floor Event Space. There will be a reception before the lecture at 5:30 p.m. and a book signing with Shteyngart at 7:30 p.m. This event that will be streamed over Zoom (Registration: https://myumi.ch/Qqqrq).

Gary Shteyngart

Gary Shteyngart Gary Shteyngart In this evening with Gary Shteyngart, the author will read from his work, discuss what it is like to write books during a period of "dislocation and general insanity," and participate in conversations of social commentary, candid talk, and true hilarity with the audience.

Shteyngart wins over readers and audiences with his blistering humor, his satirical takedowns of contemporary society, and his compassionate examination of modern love and loss. His library of works deal with American immigrant stories with heart, humor, and biting wit. His collection of works include his memoir *Little Failure*, *Our Country Friends*, *Super Sad True Love Story* (winner of the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize), *Absurdistan*, and *The Russian Debutante's Handbook* (winner of the Stephen Crane Award for First Fiction and the National Jewish Book Award for Fiction). His books regularly appear on best-of lists around the world and have been published in 30 countries.

The Belin lecture series was established in 1991 through a generous gift from the late David W. Belin of Des Moines and New York to provide an academic forum for the discussion of contemporary Jewish life in the United States. Previous scholars to hold this honor include Deborah Lipstadt, Samuel Freedman, Ruth Messinger, Jim Loeffler, Beth Wenger, and Lila Corwin Berman among others. Each year, the lecture is also published in written form in collaboration with Michigan Publishing. ■

Community approach to combating antisemitism: Next steps

By Eileen Freed, Executive Director Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

On Sunday, November 20, 2022, 100 local community members gathered at the Jewish Community Center for a Jewish community conversation about antisemitism. The goals of the conversation were to expand individual and communal understanding of present-day antisemitism in its various forms; to generate ideas about specific actions and/or projects that might be implemented to address antisemitism and hate; and to develop a cadre of people passionate about the issue who will champion and help implement next steps.

The brainstorming session of the program generated an impressive list of suggested actions which fell into four primary areas: building relationships and outreach beyond the Jewish community; advocacy; internal Jewish community education; and community security.

A follow up conversation on January 16 further clarified next steps for community action.

Building Relationships

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's Jewish Community Relations Committee's (JCRC) mission is — in part — to foster and build collaborative relationships with other faith, ethnic, and cultural communities and to be visible and present in the greater community during times of crisis and on vital social issues. Under the leadership of co-chairs Marla Linderman Richelew and Mira Sussman, as well as Federation's Community Relations Manager McKenzie Katz, the JCRC will be taking an even more proactive approach in this work by mapping existing community relationships, actively joining local interfaith coalitions, ensuring Jewish presence in the commemorations and celebrations of other groups, and developing collaborative programs to develop cultural understanding and address issues of racism and hate.

The JCRC seeks participation from volunteers from all corners of our community.

Jewish Community Education

It became clear during November's Antisemitism Conversation that there was a great interest in expanded education within the Jewish community about the issue of antisemitism itself. In addition to appreciating, recognizing, and acting on the increasing diversity of "our tribe," there is a need for programs for both adults and youth to understand antisemitic tropes, online hate speech, how to respond in the moment, and how to speak to young children about antisemitism.

A task force to identify and provide resources and training to our local Jewish community is in development. The Jewish Federation invites community members with experience and interest in program

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Purim in the year of Hakhel

Shternie Zweibel, Chabad of Ann Arbor

The holiday of Purim, a day of fun, festivities, costumes, and excitement, is fast approaching on the Jewish calendar. Jews around the world await this festive holiday with great anticipation, when we celebrate the salvation of the Jews from Haman's threat of annihilation and enjoy the parties and revelry that abound on this special day.

Preparation is in high gear for an epic Purim party that is sure to top all the parties of the past. Returning to the beloved annual tradition, Chabad of Ann Arbor and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor are joining forces to produce a collaborative event that will bring the entire Jewish community together in celebration and unity.

In previous years, themed parties have taken participants to different parts of the world with decor, costumes, and cuisine. This year, the Purim party theme is a unique take on a trip around the world, featuring a Jewish concept that is highlighted this year.

In the Jewish calendar, the seven-year Shmita cycle following the Shmita year is the year of Hakhel, which means gathering and Jewish unity. In the times of the temple, every Hakhel year brought Jews together from all around the world to Jerusalem, where a grand celebration of unity was experienced by everyone present. Though we do not have that original experience today without the holy temple in Jerusalem, this year of Hakhel is a time for unity, gathering and togetherness.

In this spirit, the Chabad Purim party will feature an immersive multicultural experience, bringing together elements from all corners of the world with a feeling of unity. Enjoy delicious cuisines from around the world with a strolling dinner, as you taste Israeli falafel, pasta dishes from Italy, Moroccan fish, British tea, and so much more. Take pictures at simulated exotic destinations and enjoy a multisensory international experience. The energy and warmth of unity will be palpable, as different countries unite and find commonality with the Purim celebration in this year of Hakhel.

The evening will include a multimedia Megillah reading, recounting the ancient story of Purim in traditional manner. Adults and children are encouraged to attend in costume, representing the country of their choice. Children will enjoy a wide variety of exciting activities, and the evening will conclude with a spectacular Purim show by Jeff the Magician.

"We are so happy to be joining Chabad as we did in the pre-pandemic years, and we look forward to welcoming everyone at the International Purim celebration. This was one of the last community collaborations we had prior to the pandemic, so we are thrilled to have come full circle for this most joyous of holidays" said Peretz Hirshbein, the JCC's Director of Child and Family Services.

We encourage everyone to attend this special Purim event, especially in this year of Hakhel when we celebrate the importance of Jewish unity without uniformity. This event will take on Tuesday March 7 at 5 p.m. at the JCC. For more information, visit www.jewmich.com/events ■

Teen travel to Israel: Let the Federation help you get there!

Liora Rosen, Israel & Overseas Program Manager, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

By visiting Israel on a gap year, semester, or summer trip, Jewish youth in greater Ann Arbor can foster a connection with Israeli culture, experience Jewish life outside of the diaspora, and make memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. To help make participation in these trips financially possible, the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor administers the Israel Teen Travel Subsidy program and the Susan L. Lichter Memorial Endowed Israel Scholarship fund. These two funding opportunities are open to Washtenaw County's Jewish high school students and those participating in gap year programs between high school and college. Funding is available for programs that are a minimum of 21 days of length and are organized by an approved provider.

Israel Teen Travel Subsidies are made possible by generous donations to the Federation's Annual Community Campaign. Recipients may receive up to $1,000 toward their Israel experience, depending on the number of applications received.

The Susan L. Lichter Memorial Endowed Israel Scholarship, founded in 2009, is generously funded by Dr. Paul and Carolyn Lichter in memory of their daughter, Susan L. Lichter, who had a deep connection to Israel. With this scholarship, the Lichters want to help other teens develop a relationship with Israel and our worldwide Jewish community. This scholarship awards two $3,000 stipends for Israel travel annually.

Eliana Adler, a summer 2022 recipient of the Susan L. Lichter Scholarship, traveled to Israel with Habonim Dror, a Jewish Labor-Zionist youth movement. Habonim Dror's overnight camp, Camp Tavor, is located in Michigan.

"I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to travel to Israel this summer," Eliana reflected when she returned. "I learned a lot about Jewish history, the history of my movement, and about the nuances and different perspectives of Israeli society." One particularly unique experience Eliana described was "the chance to have dinner with a group of Palestinian teens from HaNoar HaOved, Habonim Dror's sister movement in Israel. We got to see what their meetings looked like and participated in activities in small groups to get to know them better.

"I also feel much more connected to my Jewish identity now than I did before my trip," Eliana continued. "The high holy days had new meaning this year as I remembered my experience in Israel and looked forward to a continuation of the learning I started there."

If you or a high school student you know would like an opportunity to experience Israel in a transformative way, the application for both the Israel Travel Subsidy and the Susan L. Lichter Scholarship is due Thursday, March 30. You can download the application from the Federation's website: www.jewishannarbor.org/israel/israel-trip-scholarships.

For additional information, please contact Federation's Israel & Overseas Program Manager Liora Rosen at Liora@jewishannarbor.org or 734-773-3534. ■

HDS turns Super Sunday into lessons on philanthropy

Amy Stern, Hebrew Day School

Hebrew Day School is excited to announce a new program geared toward students in third through eighth grade. This year, the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor is holding their annual Super Sunday phone-a-thon event on Sunday, March 19 at 9 a.m. This year, we would like to welcome your child to the Super Sunday Children's Program where young people can learn about ways to positively impact their community.

As we celebrated Tu B'Shvat a few weeks ago, our students learned the story from the Talmud of Honi the Circle Maker. In the story, Honi encounters an elderly man planting carob trees, which will surely not bear fruit in the remainder of his lifetime. Honi questions the man, who explains that he plants the trees for the benefit of future generations, and that he enjoyed the taste of the fruit and the shade from trees planted by those who came before him. Our tradition teaches that it is our responsibility to plant seeds that will bear fruit in the future.

While we love the story of Honi as a lesson about conserving our natural resources, we also learn about the importance of philanthropy and providing financial as well as physical fruits for the community to enjoy. At Hebrew Day School, along with excellent Hebrew, Judaic, and secular education, we are teaching our students the values of environmental conservation as well as the importance of philanthropy.

Those who join the Super Sunday Children's Program should each bring a few dollar bills. Federation leaders will share about the impact of Federation allocations and then each participant will have the opportunity to make their own $1 donation before inviting others to do so as well. Participants will participate in age-appropriate training and the chance to join the adult Super Sunday program making calls to community members.

As beneficiaries of the Federation allocations process, we are so grateful for the community's ongoing support! Specifically, the support from the Jewish Federation, our Life & Legacy donors, and all of our generous individual donors make it possible for HDS to offer an exceptional Jewish education to all families, regardless of income, through tuition assistance support. We look forward to playing our part in the continuity of our community as we prepare the next generation of leaders and philanthropists. After all, today's beneficiaries will be tomorrow's philanthropists!

The Super Sunday Children's Program is open to students from third through eighth grade. Please RSVP to wkeller@hdsaa.org. ■

The Eastern Michigan University Center for Jewish Studies Presents

Jews for Choice: How are Jews Advocating for Abortion Rights?

Professor Michal Raucher

March 13, 2023 — 7 pm

EMU Student Center Auditorium
900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti, MI

The dominant cultural discourse in the United States is that religion is anti-abortion. Yet, the majority of religious people support the legalization of abortion, and 62% of abortion patients are affiliated with a religious tradition. This talk explores abortion advocacy among Jews and Jewish groups in the United States.

This presentation is co-sponsored the Center for Jewish Studies and the Women's & Gender Studies Department at Eastern Michigan University.

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY Women's & Gender Studies

CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

No cost to attend. For questions, contact **jewish.studies@emich.edu**

General Education LBC GROUP 3 APPROVED

The Eastern Michigan University Center for Jewish Studies Presents

Exploring the Lived Impact of the Holocaust on the Second Generation:

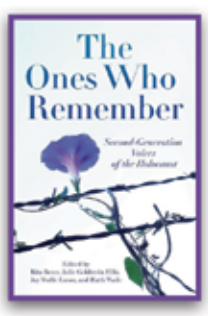
Healing & Resilience

A panel discussion with **Rita Benn, PhD**, **Fran Lewy Breg, PhD**, and **Avishay Hayut**

Monday, March 27, 2023 — 7 pm

EMU Student Center Auditorium, 900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti, MI

No cost to attend. For questions, contact **jewish.studies@emich.edu**



How does one honor the legacy of parents who survived the Holocaust while at the same time recognizing the ripples of the inherited trauma they experienced? From the compelling collection of their recently published book, *The Ones Who Remember: Second-Generation Voices of the Holocaust*, three contributing authors will read excerpts highlighting the gifts of healing and forgiveness and familial challenges growing up in the shadow of this history. Authors will encourage Q and A and discussion about their lived experience, and intergenerational transmission of trauma, healing and resilience.

The Ones Who Remember: Second Generation Voices of the Holocaust, will be available for purchase and signing at the event. Visit **www.secondgenerationvoices.com** to learn more.

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ORT AMERICA Impact Through Education

The Ann Arbor Chapter of Ort America and Department of Psychology at EMU are co-sponsors of this event.

The history and future of our commitment to human rights

By Joy Wolfe Ensor

Temple Beth Emeth and its Holocaust remembrance group Generations After are thrilled to welcome Ruth Messinger, Global Ambassador of American Jewish world Service, back to Ann Arbor on Saturday afternoon, April 15, at 4 p.m. to formally launch the Irene Butter Fund for Holocaust and Human Rights Education. Event co-sponsors include University of Michigan Hillel, Beth Israel Congregation, and the Jewish Communal Leadership Program at the University of Michigan School of Social Work. Additional sponsorship is in progress.

Irene Butter

Messinger will speak on "The Fight for Human Rights: Past, Present and Future." Whose rights have been protected and whose rights challenged throughout recent history? Where does Judaism stand on the fundamental issue of human rights? How might we understand the recent rise in hate speech and antisemitism or the current battles about immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in the context of human rights? There will be opportunity for questions and answers and audience discussion at the end of her presentation, which will be followed by an hors d'oeuvres reception.

Messinger was chosen to speak at this introductory event because of her activism and service in the fight for human rights around the world. Her long career in political and Jewish social activism has made her an icon in Jewish progressive leadership, and she is widely considered to be one of the most dynamic speakers in America today. Messinger is an exciting choice as a speaker because her work reflects the manner in which Irene Butter has dedicated her life to fighting for human rights, mending bridges between adversaries, and speaking out against racism, antisemitism, and any form of bigotry that diminishes the human spirit.

Messinger had a 20-year career in public service in New York City, including serving on the New York City Council and as Manhattan Borough President. In 1997 she ran for New York City mayor but lost to the incumbent, Rudy Giuliani. From 1998 to 2016 Messinger served as president and CEO of American Jewish World Service, for which she is now Global Ambassador. In 2006, she received an award from the Jewish Council for Public Affairs in recognition of her work to end the genocide in Darfur, Sudan. Messinger holds honorary degrees from Hebrew

Ruth Messenger

Union College, Hebrew College, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. She was for many years been listed among the "Forward 50" most influential Jews of the year.

Tickets are priced as follows:

$18	Student Admission
$36	General Admission
$360	Patron
$1,800	Angel

Patron tickets include a signed copy of either Irene Butter's book, *From Holocaust to Hope: Shores Beyond Shores, A Bergen-Belsen Survivor's True Story*, or Generations After's book, *The Ones Who Remember: Second-Generation Voices of the Holocaust*. Angel tickets include an intimate brunch on Sunday, April 16 at 10:30 a.m. with Ruth Messinger and Irene Butter.

Tickets sales are being managed by the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. Purchasing information will be available on the websites of both Federation and Temple Beth Emeth.

Ticket sales will benefit The Irene Butter Fund for Holocaust and Human Rights Education. TBE Generations After established the Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Ann Arbor to support educational programming about the Holocaust, with a focus on how its lessons can help us address modern-day challenges of "othering" and disregard for human rights. They named the Fund for Irene in order to honor her many contributions as an internationally-known Holocaust survivor, educator, peace activist, and humanitarian. Philanthropist Patti Askwith Kenner (daughter of University of Michigan alum Bert Askwith, '31) has generously agreed to match up to $50,000 in donations between now and the April 15 event, thus doubling the impact of your gift. ■

Intergenerational transmission of trauma, healing, and resilience

Robert Erlewine, EMU Center for Jewish Studies

On March 27, the Eastern Michigan University Center for Jewish Studies (with ORT and the Psychology Department at EMU as co-sponsors) will host a book event for *The Ones Who Remember* at EMU. Personal narratives have an ability, perhaps unmatched, to bear witness to horror. There is something about the human scale these narratives bring that allows the reader to engage, however partially, with situations so extreme they would otherwise defy our imaginative comprehension altogether. Presumably it is for this reason that works like Primo Levi's *Survival in Auschwitz* and Elie Wiesel's *Night* have been crucial tools in educating about the Holocaust.

The traumatic legacy of the Holocaust, of course, did not end with the victory of the Allies over the Axis powers on the battlefield or even with the liberation of the concentration camps. Those who survived, who sought to rebuild their lives, took this unimaginable trauma with them. This trauma not only marked the rest of their lives, but it made a powerful impact on their families. Trauma lives on in subsequent generations.

In *The Ones Who Remember: Second Generation Voices of the Holocaust*, published with City Point Press in 2022, 16 children of Holocaust survivors — all residents of Southeast Michigan — tell their own stories, with a focus on their relationships with their parents. These deeply affecting stories, full of beauty and love as well as pain and torment, powerfully illuminate how the traumatic legacy of the Holocaust has shaped the lives of the next generation.

The presentation, titled "Exploring the Lived Impact of the Holocaust on the Second Generation: Healing and Resilience," will highlight the gifts of healing and forgiveness and familial challenges growing up in the shadow of this history. Three contributors to this volume, two of them clinical psychologists and another one who works in health care, will meditate on the question of how one honors the legacy of parents who survived the Holocaust while at the same time recognizing the ripples of the inherited trauma they experienced. There will also be a Q&A discussion about the authors' lived experiences, and intergenerational transmission of trauma, healing, and resilience.

This event will take place on Monday, March 27, at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Student Center at EMU. It is free of charge and open to the public. Books will be available for purchase. ■

Reproductive rights is not a secular vs. religious divide

Robert Erlewine, EMU Center for Jewish Studies

On Monday, March 13, EMU's Center for Jewish Studies will host a talk by Professor Michal Raucher titled "Jews for Choice: How are Jews Advocating for Abortion Rights?"

While abortion has long been a flashpoint in the culture wars between liberal and conservative America, ever since the Supreme Court ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization in 2022, it has taken an even more prominent place in public consciousness. Often, when the issue of abortion is discussed by politicians, pundits, and in public conversation more generally, there is an assumption that this issue maps onto more general differences between religious and secular worldviews, such that religious people generally oppose abortion and secular ones support it.

In a widely read op-ed for the JTA (one that was also reprinted in the WJN in June 2022), Professor Michal Raucher (Rutgers University) highlighted the problems with this religious/secular framing by comparing legal discussions around abortion in the United States and Israel. Despite the prominent role religion plays in Israel, its legal system is significantly more permissive on the issue of abortion than that of the U.S. And yet, Raucher contends that abortion is a more contested and fraught issue within Judaism than liberal Jews often acknowledge and that Jewish groups protesting the Dobbs decision on the basis of religious freedom would do better to make their case by framing the issue around the issue of bodily autonomy.

With a significant track record of publications dealing with the ethics and theology of reproduction in the Jewish tradition and a background in religious studies, Professor Raucher is a leading figure in discussions about Judaism and abortion. As a scholar, Raucher's research lies at the intersection of Israel Studies, Jewish ethics, and the anthropology of women in Judaism.

Her book, *Conceiving Agency: Reproductive Authority among Haredi Women*, was published with Indiana University Press in 2020. The book involved significant ethnographic research on the reproductive ethics of Ultra-Orthodox Israeli women. Raucher is currently working on a book about the ordination of Orthodox Jewish women in the U.S. and Israel.

In her talk, Raucher will return to the religious/secular framing of the discussion around abortion in the U.S. and will discuss where Jews and Judaism fit in this discussion. By noting the fact that the majority of religious people support the legalization of abortion and that 62% of abortion patients are affiliated with a religious tradition, Dr. Raucher will challenge many of the assumptions shaping the way abortion is cast in popular discourse in general and will look in particular at abortion advocacy among Jews and Jewish groups in the U.S.

This event will take place at Eastern Michigan University, in the Student Center Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 13. It is free of charge and open to the public. ■

TBE Events in March

Events and services are both in-person and/or virtual. Please see www.templebethemeth.org for full details, locations information, and links.

Tot Shabbat Service and Dinner
Fridays at 5:45 p.m.
Join Cantor Hayut and Rabbi Whinston to celebrate Shabbat with fun activities, stories, songs, and age-appropriate learning for children ages 0–5.

Shabbat Service
Fridays at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday Shabbat service
Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Weekday morning blessings
Daily at 9:15 a.m.
Join Cantor Emerita Annie Rose and Rabbi Whinston each weekday morning for a short service of song, poetry, and meditation.

Daily afternoon blessings
Mondays through Thursdays at 3 p.m.
Join Cantor Hayut each afternoon for an intimate short service.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah
Mondays at 5:45 p.m. and Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Contact Cantor Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org for details and with questions.

Women's Torah Study
Mondays at 7:30 p.m.
Join Cantor Hayut in an in-depth study and lively discussion of the week's Torah portion. This year, the group will focus on exploring passages that have informed rituals of modern Jewish life.

Twenty-five-minute mindfulness with Jewish spiritual director Linda Greene
Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.
Zoom room opens at 8:15 a.m. for optional check-in. Blessing and intention setting 8:30–8:35 a.m. Meditate 8:35–9 a.m. Start your day centered and connected.

Talmud Tuesdays with Rabbi Alter
Tuesdays at 11 a.m. or 8 p.m.
Both meetings discuss the same material. Join Rabbi Alter to discover the Talmud, the formative collection of stories and discussions that defined the post-Temple Judaism that continues today! Together, explore the foundations of our contemporary Jewish ethics, beliefs, and practices, as well as some tremendous tales about our ancient rabbis! Join anytime! All materials are provided*. (*It is recommended that you read *If All the Seas Were Ink* by Ilana Kurshan, but it's not required or expected.)

Cantor's (Jewish) Book Club with Cantor Hayut
Thursdays at 11 a.m.
Join Cantor Hayut to read and discuss books of Jewish interest a few chapters at a time. This year, the book group will be reading primarily, although not exclusively, works by Israeli authors. For more information or questions, please contact Cantor Hayut.

Back Door Food Pantry
Thursdays, 4–7 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner
Thursdays at 5 p.m.
Join Claire Weiner for a 40-minute meditation session

Lunch & Learn with Cantor Hayut and Rabbi Whinston
Fridays at 12 p.m.
Bring your lunch and learn with Cantor Hayut and Rabbi Whinston during this informal and social gathering. We explore different ideas throughout the year with participants guiding our subjects.

Shabbat morning Torah study
Saturdays at 8:50 a.m.
Join us for this weekly discussion of the Torah portion.

Silent Auction!
Online through March 5
Support TBE's Jewish education programs by bidding on some incredible items and experiences! All proceeds support TBE's youth scholarship fund. You can easily donate your own items to the auction by following a link on the site above! Visit www.templebethemeth.org for access to the auction.

Persian Purim Pageant
Saturday, March 4, 7 p.m.
Celebrate Purim with Temple Beth Emeth by stepping back in time, into an ancient Persian celebration! Adults only. Babysitting for kids 3 and up will be available and includes dinner and a movie!

Family Purim Festivities
Sunday, March 5, 3 p.m.
Free and open to the public. Join TBE's fabulous Cantor Regina and Rabbi Daniel for a family friendly Purim celebration!

Spiritual Book Club with Cantor Emerita Annie Rose
Thursday, March 9, 12 p.m., and Tuesday, March 14,, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service & Dinner
Friday, March 10, 5:45 p.m.
Join Cantor Hayut to celebrate Shabbat with fun activities, stories, songs, and age-appropriate learning for children ages 5–10. Registration requested.

Reducing Your Carbon Footprint: Local Transportation Systems
Wednesday, March 15, 7:30 p.m.
Part of a series of free Zoom workshops. Details and registration at www.climateherostories.com. Speakers: Representative from AA Area Transportation Authority, "How to Use Public Transportation in AA"; Suzann Flowers, City of Ann Arbor, "Walking and Biking in AA"; Testimonials from All-season Bike Riders Phil Barr and Annette Fisch.

Aging Solo
Thursday, March 16, 4 p.m.
Join us for discussion, support, and snacks at the Jewish Community Center.

LGBTQ Shabbat Potluck
Friday, March 17, 6 p.m.
Join us for a Shabbat dinner and candle lighting with members of the local queer community! Bring a dish to share with others, make new friends and let us know what you'd like to see in future queer programming! Temple Beth Emeth is launching a new queer affinity group, and we'd like to invite others to join! We're starting things off with our first LGBTQ Shabbat Potluck, an opportunity to expand our community and to share what you'd like to experience moving forward. Join us for a candle lighting and meal with the local community in our Adult Lounge and help us craft a group that meets all our needs. In order to make sure we can feed everyone, please respond to this survey (https://bit.ly/tbelgbtq) or email Ariane Smith at brariane@umich.edu with the dish you're planning to bring.

Bereavement Group
Tuesday, March 21, 4 p.m.
The group will have opportunities to share openly about their process of grieving and will also have topic-based readings to spark discussion.

Women's Rosh Chodesh Circle
Wednesday, March 22, 5:30 p.m.

Jonathan Ornstein, Executive Director of the Krakow JCC, joins TBE for Shabbat Services
Friday, March 24, 7:30 p.m.

Women of Temple Beth Emeth Passover Sale
Fridays, March 24 and 31, noon–7 p.m., and Sunday, March 26, 3–7 p.m. In the WTBE Gift Shop at Temple Beth Emeth. ■

Krakow JCC Director visits TBE

By Cantor Regina Lambert-Hayut

Everyone is welcome to attend Shabbat services on Friday, March 24, as we welcome Jonathan Ornstein, and join the Temple Beth Emeth community for the Oneg Shabbat dessert reception following services.

Jonathan Ornstein will be in Michigan speaking at University of Michigan and with Jewish leaders in Ann Arbor and Metro Detroit about the Jewish Community Center of Krakow's work in aiding Ukrainian refugees who have had to flee their homes since the start of the war with Russia.

Within a month of the start of the war, nearly 1.8 million refugees landed in Poland, about 140,000 of them in Krakow. The approximately 750 family members of the JCC jumped into action to find resources to help those who were fleeing the violence.

The JCC of Krakow has been dedicated to rebuilding Jewish life in Krakow since it opened in 2008, and there is no greater sign of Jewish life than welcoming the stranger and being gracious to the needy, the widow, and the orphan. It is a tremendous task, and Ornstein's visit to Ann Arbor will mark more than a year of providing support to the Ukrainian refugees.

Ornstein is a native of New Your City who moved to Israel in 1994. According to his bio, he migrated from Israel to Poland in 2001 and shortly after began lecturing in Jewish studies at Krakow's Jagiellonian University and founded the Gesher Association for Polish-Israeli Dialogue. He is a founding member of Przymierze, the Krakow Association of Christians and Jews, and serves as vice president. He is also on the boards of the Krakow branch of the Child Survivors of the Holocaust organization and JCC Global. He was awarded the Cohon Award for services benefitting the Jewish People (2014) and the Polish Foreign Ministry *Bene Merito* medal for his work promoting Poland (2015).

We are very happy to have the opportunity to hear from Jonathan Ornstein and learn from him about the work that he is doing and how we can help. ■

Purim pageantry at TBE

By Rabbi Daniel K. Alter, Temple Beth Emeth

Celebrate Purim (aka Israeli Halloween) all weekend long with Temple Beth Emeth. We have three ways to play. Registration for all events will be available on the TBE website.

1) We hope you have the perfect Persian paraphernalia because on Saturday, March 4, we invite you to step back in time to an ancient Persian party. Festivities begin at 7 p.m. at TBE, located at 2309 Packard Street. You'll have the opportunity to mingle with your friends and hear the Purim story told straight from the mouths of the main characters of Megillat Esther. That's right. All your favorites will be there: Esther, Mordechai, Ahashverosh, Vashti, and more. Plus, put on your thinking caps and test your mettle against a Purim-themed caper. You may even win a prize at our live auction and raffle, which will conclude the evening.

This event is intended for adults only, and alcohol will be present. We will be offering babysitting during the event for children ages 3 and up. While you schmooze with your friends, your kids and grandkids will enjoy pizza and a movie with their friends. Registration is requested for the adult party. Registration in advance is required for babysitting.

2) On Sunday, March 5, Cantor Regina Hayut and Rabbi Daniel K. Alter humbly request your family's presence for some further Purim fun. After warming up by singing some silly Purim songs, we will need your help to read the megillah and tell the Purim story. After that, everyone will get an opportunity to show off their best Purim regalia in a Costume Parade as we make our way to the Social Hall. There, we will enjoy a light meal and be awed by you, our incredibly talented performers, at the first TBE Purim Talent Show. If you would like to perform in the talent show, please reach out to Rabbi Daniel or Cantor Regina at: rabbialter@templebethemeth.org or cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org

This event begins at 3 p.m. in TBE's sanctuary. Registration in advance is requested.

3) TBE's fourth annual Purim Silent Auction will begin on Sunday, February 26, and end on Sunday, March 5. Visit TBE's website or type in the following link to bid on a myriad of exciting experiences, national and international travel opportunities, and more. All proceeds from the auction support TBE's youth education scholarship fund, which enables TBE to fulfill one of its core values: Jewish education for all, irrespective of financial status.

You can also donate your gently used books, art, services, and more to the auction by contacting Rabbi Daniel or following the donation link at the top of the auction site.

https://templebethemeth.betterworld.org/auctions/tbe-2023-purim-silent-auction

We hope you join us for one, two, or all three Purim opportunities. ■

From Treetown to Ethiopia

By Marcy Epstein, AARC Beit Sefer Director

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC) Beit Sefer (religious school) has been super busy this winter, the sort of wonderful busy that Jewish educators dream of, particularly after years of pandemic isolation. We have dived into Jewish enrichment, experience, and learning, from challah baking and Maccabee improv to Torah illustration and yoga Ivrit.

In December, our community celebrated Sigd, the holiday of humility and redemption brought to Israel and the United States by the Jews of Ethiopia. Sigd, which means "to pray to God or to prostrate oneself," is now observed 50 days after Yom Kippur, and since 2008, it has become an official holiday in Israel, attended by thousands in Jerusalem.

Otto Nelson, Marcy Epstein, and Oscar Cohen-Flintoft put the finishing touches of "Emet" (Truth) on Ann Arbor's first recorded snow golem!

Our teachers and students consider diversity and representation, whose stories are told in Torah and in the contemporary Jewish world. We learned about one of the most ancient Semitic languages, Geʾez. Geʾez is a bridge language, having both birthed modern Amharic and maintained a close connection to Aramaic, Hebrew's parent language. For example, as we learned about the circular shuls, and later Ethiopian Christian Orthodox sanctuaries, we came to learn that mesgid, the same lingual root as Sigd (m-s-g) gave us both the Arabic word mosque and the Hebrew word lisgod, for worship. We explored several Jewish ideas from Africa, drawing parallels and overlaps among African, Middle Eastern, and European traditions.

Lucky for us, one of our parents, Naomi Levin, Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Science at UMich, shared that she had done her geology field work in Ethiopia. Her family brought in traditional furnishings of small, decorated stools and a communal table for our celebration. Students wore clothes of pure white or black, green, and red. We made chag ha-motzi over Nancy Meadow's extraordinary home-baked dabo bread, the dark molasses-thick challah round favored among those descended from Ethiopia's Beta Israel community.

Reenacting the ancients' journey to Mount Sinai is another important observance by Beta Israel for Sigd. We also journeyed to Sinai, except more briefly through a field of fresh snow and up the hill behind the Jewish Community Center. Led by teacher Evan Friedman, our children experienced a love of Yiddishkeit across the world, making videos of themselves to be shared in the future, via Israel Connection of the Jewish Federation, with the kids of Ethiopian-Israeli communities. Imagine our pleasure at all the kids' happy cheers of "Melkat Sigd Bahal!"

Our Tu B'Shvat celebration of the "New Year for Trees" was both traditional and lots of fun. Tu B'Shvat marked the time, in early agrarian communities, when the crop cycle would begin, in tandem with the divine cycle of trees. During this time of year in "Treetown" Ann Arbor, our trees shift out of dormancy and into the flow and spring of life. Like our own life blood, trees begin to produce sap.

At the AARC Beit Sefer, we emphasize experiential learning and nature, building a Judaism synchronous with and responsible to the environment. We looked at how Michigan's trees supply us with a majority of a sustainable human diet (part of eco-kashrut); at our seder, we promised to plant our favorite trees after the frost, to see if we could support the right conditions to bring trees to life, just as they give us life! We also planted organic parsley, so we could watch this holy part of winter pass and have karpas for our spring seders.

After we planted our herbs, we gathered with our families and AARC friends for a traditional seder of fruits, sap, and seeds, exploring the four mystic worlds of consciousness in nature, and allowing for shefa (meaning both flow and sustenance, like sap) to seep from the many flavors, textures, and scents that abounded at our tables. We had a fantastic time singing and fulfilling the minhag of tasting at least 15 gifts of the trees!

The kids are making hundreds of special memories: sipping soup with matzah balls they have made themselves; rugelach, sufganiyot (jelly donuts), and challah baking; dancing and drama, even crafting a short, modernized tale about a snow Golem of Treetown, after the medieval folktale — and then building a snow golem to watch over the JCC!

In the coming month we are embarking on dual units on environmental and animal stewardship. We are really looking forward to our April Mitzvah day to study animal welfare. We are baking kosher dog biscuits and cat treats for sale, in order to raise money for the Huron Valley Humane Society (HSHV), and then visiting the facility to learn more about their wildlife support programs and role nationally in caring for domesticated animals. We have designed a special program with HSHV for a "Rescue Reading" program, wherein our students will bring Jewish folktales and Hebrew/English books to read to dogs and cats. What a way to feel closer to animals with loving chesed.

Families are welcome to visit, and — please save the date — we would love to have you at the AARC's Beit Sefer Bring-a-Family Shabbat celebration on Saturday, May 13, at the JCC, with an oneg to honor our families to follow. Come see what fun that the mitzvah of Jewish learning can be.

Please visit the AARC website at https://aarecon.org/ or email Rosh (Director) Marcy Epstein at dr_marcy@hotmail.com. ■

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Orthodox Minyan in March

For information about all events, please visit annarborminyan.org/announcements or contact rabbayael@annarborminyan.org

Every Friday evening, beginning 20–30 minutes before sunset. Michigan Hillel.

Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat Maariv Service

Shabbat Morning Service

Every Saturday morning, 9:30 a.m. Michigan Hillel.

Parsha Party with Morah Milka

Children's programming for "walkers and talkers."

Every Saturday morning, 10:30 a.m. Michigan Hillel.

Shabbat Mincha Service

Every Saturday afternoon, approximately 30 minutes before sunset. Michigan Hillel.

Daily Minyan

Shacharit services are held jointly with Chabad Monday–Friday at 7:30 a.m. and Sunday at 8:45 a.m. Weekday Shacharit is at Hillel on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and at Chabad on Sunday, Monday, and Friday. Mincha and Maariv are normally held Sunday–Friday at Hillel, at times that vary throughout the year.

Parsha Lunch and Learn

Join us Wednesdays in March at 12:30 p.m. to explore themes of the weekly Torah portion in the Book of Exodus. On Zoom.

Melave Malka series: AAOM Authors

March 4, 8 p.m.

Professor Rebecca Wollenberg of the Frankel Institute will present on her book, *The Closed Book: How the Rabbis Taught the Jews (Not) to Read the Bible* (Princeton University Press, 2023), followed by a Q&A with the audience. On Zoom. Registration information at the AAOM website.

Children's Purim Party

March 5, 9 a.m. Come celebrate Purim by creating an art project, dressing up in your costume and making a delicious treat. At the home of a community member.

Congregational Purim Services and Megillah Reading

Monday, March 6: Maariv service at 7 p.m., followed by Megillah reading at 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, March 7: Shacharit service and Megillah reading beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Women's Megillat Esther Reading

March 7, 9:45 a.m. There will be an all-women's Megillat Esther reading at the home of a community member. All women are welcome.

Sefaria Tutorial

March 15, 8 p.m. Join us to learn how to maximize use of Sefaria.org, a living online library of Torah. Over Zoom, Rabba Yael will demonstrate how to navigate the texts, explore the library, and connect with the Sefaria community. Zoom link: bit.ly/Sefaria-Tutorial

Women's Rosh Chodesh Group

March 23 8:30 p.m.

Torah on Tap: Pesach Learning

March 27 8 p.m. ■

Pardes Hannah events in March

Please check the Pardes Hannah website (https://pardeshannah.org/) for the latest information, including location of in-person events, registration links for Zoom, and other details on these or any of our services, rituals, circles, or teachings, or call Renee Robbins at 734-904-5459.

-**Teaching on Purim**

Wednesday, March 1, 7:30–8:30 p.m.

-**Shabbat Morning Services**

Saturday, March 4, 10 a.m.–12 noon

-**Study Session on the Shema**

Saturday, March 18, 7–8:30 p.m.

Rosh Chodesh Nisan Circle

Wednesday, March 22, 7–8:30 p.m.

-**Rosh Chodesh Online Minyan**

Thursday, March 23, 9–10:15 a.m.

-**Kohenet Kabbalat Shabbat**

Friday, March 24, 6:30–7:30 p.m. ■

"Judging My Worth by the Seat of My Pants"

During National Eating Disorder Awareness Week and the start of Women's History Month, artist and fat feminist activist Brenda Oelbaum invites self-identifying women and girls into her closet to try on her jeans.

Visitors to the gallery will be invited into the madness of the mind of a person with body image issues and the confusion brought on by the fashion industry's use of vanity sizing, and the diet industry's seductive use of the "'before & after" picture.

Become a Willendorf Model, have your "After" picture taken in Oelbaum's "big girl" pants without the need to diet "Before."

The photoshoot is part of the preliminary work of Oelbaum's Venus of Willendorf Project's upcoming No Diet Day Event 2023.

Oelbaum is excited to collaborate with Mary Balog, a "non-diet" dietitian and certified intuitive eating counselor, whose mission is to support individual and collective well-being by strengthening relationships to food, body, and community.

During the event, Balog will be supporting conversations that challenge our cultural understanding of health, wellness, and nutrition. Balog believes that our relationship to food and our body is personal, and teaches about the power to advocate for ourselves and the need to shift cultural narratives. Balog brings nutritional practice knowledge to the table to address taming the insanity and medicalized misinformation that trigger us and lead to the dysregulation and pathologizing of our natural eating habits.

Brenda Oelbaum's interactive installation, "Judging My Worth by the Seat of My Pants," will be shown Friday March 3 through Saturday March 4 at the River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle Avenue, in Wyandotte. ■

Phil Zazove: When the phone rings, the bed shakes

By Chuck Newman

Editor's Note: Chuck Newman hosts a biweekly series of "Conversations," presented by the Jewish Cultural Arts and Education department of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. The talk show format of the Zoom presentations highlights Chuck's easygoing style and deep curiosity about science, politics, and connections between our local environment and the world. You can find these interviews and other previous shows at https://jccannarbor.org/event/conversations.

This story will leave you believing that all things in life are possible.

When he was four years old, Phil Zazove couldn't fathom why his father was speaking, but wasn't looking at him. So he asked his father, "How else can you hear me?" That question led to a diagnosis: he is essentially deaf. He has only minimal hearing, and that only in the lowest range. Somehow, he had taught himself to read lips and body language so well that no one had noticed.

With the support of his extraordinary parents, both doctors, he had a very active and fulfilling childhood, excelling in athletics and academics. At a time when deaf children went to special schools, he became one of the first deaf students in the Northern Chicago suburbs' public schools. None of this came easy, but with hard work and determination he overcame numerous obstacles — many of which were due to ignorance and prejudice on the part of teachers, coaches, and admissions officers.

Perhaps his parents' belief that Dr. Zazove could overcome his barriers was so strong because they too had had to overcome antisemitism — and in his mother's case, poverty — in order to be admitted to medical school. They each eventually prevailed, through hard work and determination — and a lawsuit by Dr. Zazove's grandfather.

Even though he didn't have the help of interpreters and note-takers, Dr. Zazove had an outstanding academic record, both in the public schools and at Northwestern University where he was one of only a few walk-ons on the football team. Fulfilling his dream of becoming a doctor, too, required overcoming another obstacle despite his outstanding credentials.

Medical schools didn't believe that someone who couldn't hear his patients or his professors would be capable of becoming a doctor. How could he learn if he couldn't hear during rounds, or while observing surgeries when everyone was wearing masks? He was finally given a chance at the Rutgers University Medical School, where he once again excelled with extra hard work, study, and acute observation.

Throughout his medical journey he has found ways to compensate for his deafness, including a bed that shakes when he gets a phone call, pagers that vibrate, specific adapted stethoscopes and phones, and above all, his extraordinary ability to read body language.

This ability to read body language so well is a powerful diagnostic tool that few doctors with hearing have. Since a patient's story is a doctor's most powerful diagnostic tool, this ability is one of the reasons he is an outstanding family doctor.

After graduation he established a thriving family medicine practice, from scratch, in Utah. He gave it up to move to Ann Arbor when his wife Barbara, whom he had met in medical school, was offered a desirable research position at the University of Michigan Medical School. In Ann Arbor he was given a position at the nationally renowned University of Michigan Family Medicine Department, and eventually became the head of the department.

Due to his experiences, he has led the charge in caring for patients with disabilities. Many doctors feel uncomfortable treating this patient population, even though over 20% of Americans have an existing disability.

This is a sampling of some of his initiatives:

The U-M Adaptive Sports and Fitness Program, which aims to increase awareness about, knowledge of, access to, and participation in adaptive sports and fitness among people with and without disabilities.

MDisability, a collaborative program focused on improving the inclusion of people with disabilities in healthcare research, education, practice, and community engagement, with events focused on providing health information to those who are deaf.

The Docs with Disabilities podcast, which provides a forum for physicians working in the profession to discuss how they provide health care and conduct research while living with a disability.

Michigan Medicine's Deaf Health Clinic, the only clinic of its kind in Michigan.

Prescription to Play, which connects individuals living with spinal cord injuries in southeast Michigan to local adaptive sports resources.

Work with the University of Michigan Admissions Committee to level the playing field for applicants with disabilities.

He has also led the Family Medicine faculty in conducting research in the area of disability, including:

The EAR-PC study, which utilized an electronic alert to remind clinicians to ask patients aged 55 years and older about hearing loss. The study found that the electronic prompt significantly increased awareness of hearing limitations and audiology referrals for at-risk patients.

Research that uses data to improve efficiency, quality, and health outcomes in the areas of aging, disability, and health disparities.

Studying the rate of wellness visits among those with a disability and how the effect of laws such as the Affordable Care Act influenced how often this patient population saw a primary care physician.

Assessing disability policies and practices in family medicine residencies.

Identifying structural barriers that students face when entering medical school and the ongoing challenges they encounter once they are admitted.

Determining **how best to support contraceptive decisions**, particularly for people with disabilities and/or chronic medical conditions.

Assessing the impact of having disabilities, such as hearing loss, on hospitalizations and emergency room utilization.

Importantly, he also initiated an ongoing trial to address physician burnout, due in large part to their having to spend two hours on documentation and other tasks for every hour they spend with patients. He was able to get approval for the Family Medicine Department to, in part, bill on a results basis rather than with fee for service. This allowed them to try new creative approaches to providing better patient care at a lower cost. ■

Beth Israel March events

Everyone is welcome to join Beth Israel for services, classes, and events. Services are being held in person and virtually. Below is a list of the links to participate virtually in services at Beth Israel. Beth Israel is now live streaming services on the Beth Israel YouTube channel (Beth Israel Congregation AA MI). All links are also available on the Beth Israel homepage (www.bethisrael-aa.org). Please note that passwords are used. Contact the office to get the passwords at office@bethisrael-aa.org.

Purim at Beth Israel!

Sunday, March 5, at 11 a.m.
Beth Israel Religious School Purim Play & Teacher Appreciation for Parents and Students
Our 4th and 5th grade class will present their annual Purim Play under the direction of Morah Carol Feldman. We will also be celebrating our BIRS teachers. Everyone is invited!

Monday, March 6, at 5:30 p.m.
Join us starting at 5:30 p.m. to celebrate Purim at Beth Israel. A Maariv service followed by the reading of the first two chapters of the Megillah will be held in the sanctuary while children are invited to the large social hall for Purim crafts and activities. At 6 p.m. everyone will gather together to hear the remaining chapters of the Megillah interspersed with festive music provided by Neil Alexander and his band along with dancing. We will be serving hamentaschen made in Beth Israel's kitchen along with other snacks.

Tuesday, March 7, at 9:30 a.m.
The whole Megillah will be read at this morning service at which refreshments will also be served.

Programs and Events

Raising Children with Less Anxiety and More God
Sunday, March 5, at 10 a.m.
Sunday, March 19, at 11 a.m.
Using Eli Lebowitz's book *Breaking Free of Child Anxiety and OCD* and Jewish sources, Rav Nadav and Lynne Caine will lead study and discussion of how we raise our children with less anxiety and more God. All parents are invited. In-person only.

Tot Shabbat
Saturday, March 4 & 18, at 10:30 a.m.
Tot Shabbat continues as spring approaches. Join us for a playful morning of Jewish songs, games, and stories. Challah and grape juice kiddush included. For kids age 1 through 1st grade, but all are welcome to join.

Shabbat Schmooze
Saturday, March 4 and 18, at 10:30 a.m.
We invite our older elementary students (2nd–5th grade) to join us for some ice breakers, challah and juice, traditional Shabbat prayers, weekly Torah portion activities, and time with friends both old and new.

Gershowitz Shabbat
Saturday, March 11, at 9:30 a.m.
Join us for Gershowitz Shabbat as we honor the blessed memory of Henry Gershowitz, a past president of Beth Israel Congregation well known for his devotion to the synagogue and for encouraging new people to become involved in leading a service. Though the services at Beth Israel are always participatory in that members of the congregation lead various parts of the service, this particular one is offered as an opportunity for new people to become involved in a way they have not been before.

Talmud Study with Rabbi Dobrusin (via Zoom)
Monday, March 13, 20 and 27, at 4 p.m.
All are invited to join our Talmud study class. We will read the text in Hebrew or Aramaic with an accompanying English translation, and all discussions will be in English so no familiarity with Hebrew is required. All are welcome to join the class at any time. The Zoom link can be found on the Beth Israel webpage (www.bethisrael-aa.org).

BIRS Parent Coffee
Sunday, March 12, at 10 a.m.
Get together with fellow parents to visit, drink coffee, and enjoy some good conversation.

Aura of Kabbalat Shabbat
Friday, March 10, at 6 p.m.
Join us for a monthly Musical Kabbalat Shabbat led by Rabbi Aura Ahuvia in the Main Sanctuary and on Zoom.

Home Shabbat: From the Rabbi's Table to Yours
Friday, March 31, at 6 p.m.
Join Rav Nadav and his family for Kabbalat Shabbat service over Zoom (only) from their Shabbat table to yours on the last Friday of each month.

Theology Book Club — Online
Wednesdays at 8 p.m.
Beth Israel Congregation's Theology Book Club welcomes you to join them to read together and discuss books on Jewish thought and beliefs. The books are in English. Contact Paul Shifrin at (248) 514-7276 for more information.

In Person and Online Services

Evening Minyan — virtual only
Sunday at 5 p.m.
Monday – Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Friday Evening Services — in person and virtual
Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning Services — in person and virtual
Saturday at 9:30 a.m. ■

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1946: Purim in a DP camp

By Shifra Epstein

On March 5 at 1 p.m., Dr. Jerry Sorokin, the new Executive Director of Beth Israel Congregation, and I will share with members of our congregation and guests a catalog and an exhibition on Purim I curated for Yeshiva University Museum in New York City more than 44 years ago. The event will be on Zoom.

The exhibition, "Purim: The Face and the Mask" included more than 313 artifacts and works of art related to Purim, including paintings by renowned painters such as Rembrandt; engravings; more than 30 Megillot Esther (handwritten on parchment and printed); megillah cases, and groggers. Information and items in the exhibition came from museums and private collectors in Israel and the United States as well as around the world.

The exhibition featured Purim music, curiosities, food and folk traditions from various communities around the world, children's games, and a special installation designed to hold spices referred to in the Megillah that visitors could sniff, such as myrrh and myrtle.

A film about Purim festivities in Borough Park played continuously in the museum's Little Theater. Purim services including the reading of the Esther Megillah were held during the run of the exhibition.

The catalog also included scholarly articles, ranging from "Theology of Purim," "Purim in Jewish Art," "Insights into Megillat Esther," "The Religious Significance of Purim," "The Purim Calendar," "The Megillah," "The Exchange of Portions and Almsgiving on Purim," "Purim Parody," "From Tel Aviv to Borough Park," "Purim in the Twentieth Century," and "The Landsberg Carnival: Purim in a Displaced Persons Center."

One of the most inspiring themes in the exhibition and catalog was the description of the celebration of the first Purim by Holocaust survivors a year after the end of WWII at the Landsberg Displaced Persons (DP) Camp in Germany.

Purim and the city of Landsberg have a special place in the history of Hitler's beliefs and ideology. Landsberg was the city where, in 1924, Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf* (My Struggle) while in the local prison. In 1944, Hitler broadcast on German radio that if Nazi Germany did not prevail, "the devastating Jewish Ahasuerus could celebrate the destruction of Europe in a second triumphant Purim festival."

Toby Blum-Dobkin, a scholar of Jewish folklore whose parents survived the war and who lived in Landsberg DP Camp for more than two years after the war, shared her research with me, which I included in the exhibition and the catalog.

The Landsberg DP Camp became solely a Jewish DP camp in 1945, with more than 5,000 residents, and was among the most active and successful camps. Landsberg had a mikvah (Jewish ritual bath), a kosher kitchen, and a radio station. The camp had a rich cultural life that included a theater, a cinema, and a choir.

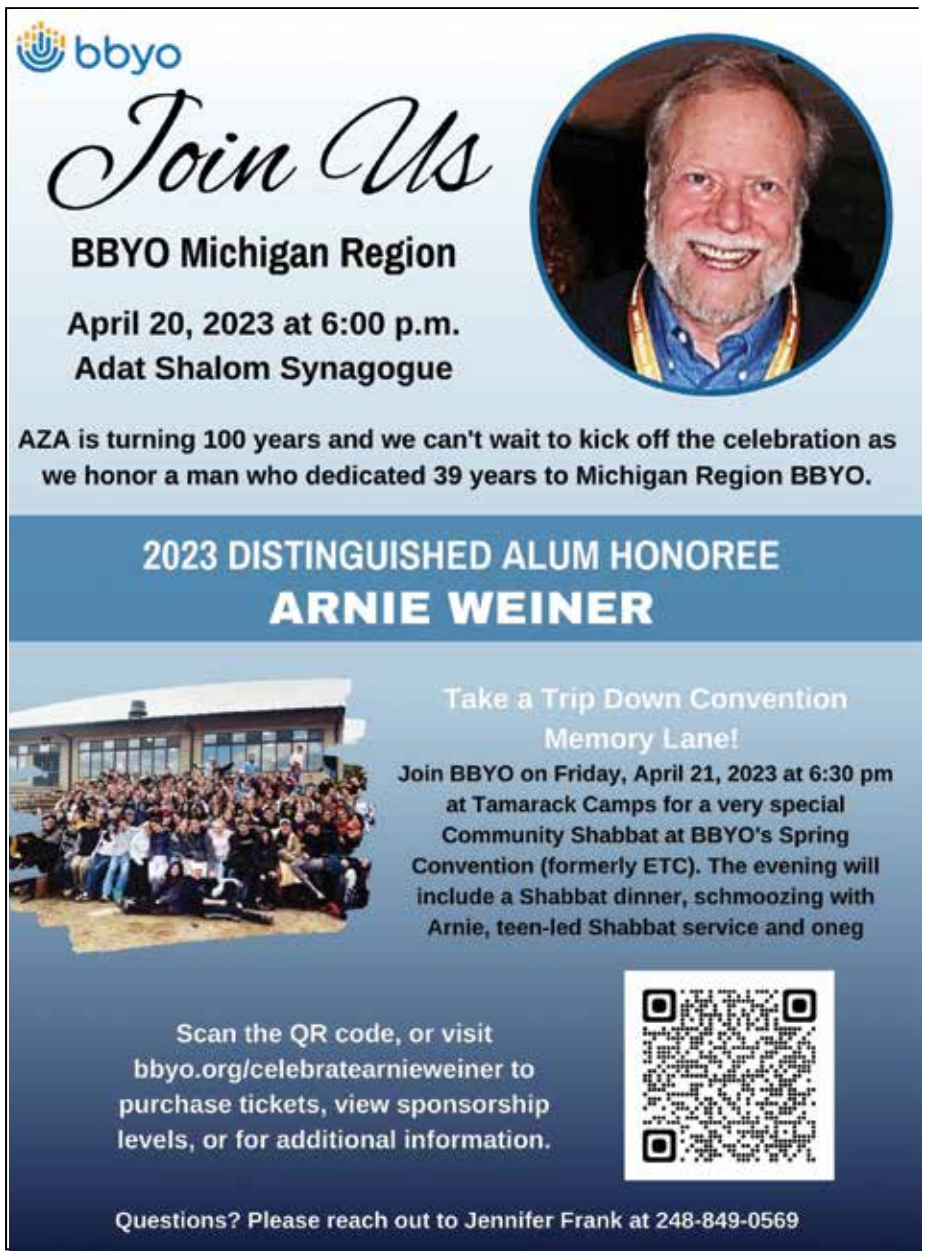
Eleven months after Hitler died by suicide and not even a year after the Nazis' defeat, Jewish Holocaust survivors living in Landsberg DP Camp put on a Purim celebration. According to Blum-Dobkin, for Purim 1946, the survivors organized a week-long Purim carnival that included a symbolic burning of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*; a parade of workers, schools, kibbutzim, and various organizations; and, of course, the wearing of costumes. The *Landsberger Lager Cajtung*, (Landsberg Camp Newspaper) reported that at the entrance to Landsberg, "Hitler hangs in many variations and in many poses; a big Hitler, a fat Hitler, a small Hitler, with medals and without medals. Jews hung him by his head, by his feet, or by his belly." Leo Srole, the UN-appointed welfare director for Landsberg and one of the organizers of the March 1946 Purim carnival, later recalled: "It was (a day) of such elation, I had never seen anything like it … Hitler and Haman now had their due." As a poster from Landsberg announced: "In the city where Hitler wrote his *Kampf*, the Jews will celebrate the greatest Purim of the Jewish year of 5706, the Purim of Hitler's downfall!"

According to the *Landsberger Lager Cajtung*, the reenactments of Purim in the aftermath of the Holocaust not only fulfilled the obligation to remember Amalek and to record the history of the latest destruction, but these performances also served as a poignant reminder of am yisrael chai, that the people Israel endure.

A scanned copy of *Purim: The Face and the Mask* is posted on the website of Beth Israel Congregation. The University of Michigan also has a copy in the Judaica Collection.

Purim offers an outlet for rage, hope, and despair. I encourage you to feel them, and not hide behind a mask of levity. In today's world, I see eerie similarities between the battle between Haman and Mordechai in what is transpiring in Ukraine with Vladimir Putin playing the role of Haman and Volodymyr Zelensykyy playing the role of Mordechai. Perhaps Jewish and non-Jewish refugees from Ukraine will come to the event and share with us their stories about surviving Putin/Haman.

I hope to see you on March 5. ■



AZA celebrates 100 years by honoring Arnold J. Weiner

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of AZA (Aleph Zadik Aleph, the Jewish teen fraternity that makes up half of the pluralistic Jewish teen movement BBYO), Michigan Region is honoring Arnie Weiner, a man whose dedication to the organization spans half a century. Weiner's affiliation dates back before he was even born, to the founding of AZA in Omaha, Nebraska. In 1924, cars from Grand Rapids, Michigan, traveled to Omaha, marking the beginning of the first chapter in Michigan, Wasserman AZA #5. Arnie's father was one of the first members of that chapter, and when Arnie was old enough, he joined and was an active member for five years.

While in social work school at the University of Michigan, Weiner's professor suggested that he might enjoy working with teens in a newly created cooperative effort of B'nai B'rith and Beth Israel. He started out as an advisor to Eilat BBYO, mentoring teens and attending conclaves and conventions. It was there that he met Manny Mandell, who offered him the position of Michigan Region Assistant Director in 1969. Weiner became Regional Director in 1972.

Michigan Region flourished under Weiner's leadership and is still considered one of the strongest regions in the country. He was committed to providing the BBYO experience to as many teens as possible and worked to develop scholarship funds so more teens could attend conclaves, conventions, and summer experiences. When he retired, he asked that any contributions in his honor go to a fund to help BBYOers.

His longevity in this position gave the teens in our area the opportunity to continue growing in their involvement in BBYO locally, nationally, and globally. He was actively involved in directing programs both in the United States and abroad, including leadership trips to Israel, a German Jewish Exchange program in the 1980s, and a peer encounter trip to Sofia, Bulgaria.

When writing his last column in B'Yachad, Weiner said that his generation of agency directors were characterized as "the connecting generation." He enjoyed "combining continuity and tradition with innovation and change to build the program." Weiner also said "I did not do it all alone. We were able to gather many people of vision and good will, who saw the future leadership of our community within the Jewish youth we serve."

The larger legacy of Weiner's work with Michigan BBYO is not just in all the teens he worked with, but also in the organizations those teens grew up to lead. The boards and executive staff of many of Metro Detroit's community organizations are stacked with BBYO alumni, as are Jewish organizations nationwide. If asked, it's safe to say most of those leaders will have a story to tell about Weiner and his big beaming smile.

Weiner lives in Royal Oak and is near his two children: Matthew Weiner (Liz Mirer) and Eve Keller, and three grandkids, Arthur and Margaret Winer and Mason Keller.

Join BBYO on Thursday, April 20, as we celebrate and honor Arnie Weiner who dedicated 39 years to Michigan Region BBYO. For more information on the event, please visit https://bbyo.org/celebratearnieweiner or call Jennifer Frank at 248-849-0569. ■

Sue Cutler and Beverly Pelletier showing at Amster Gallery at the JCC

By Drew Coel, Marketing and Program Associate at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor

The work of local artists is once again beautifying the walls of the Herb and Carol Amster Gallery at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor!

Beverly Pelletier

Sue Cutler

The gallery has a great lineup, and the J cannot wait to welcome artists and viewers back after being closed due to the pandemic.

The Herb and Carol Amster Gallery opened in 1998 along with the completion of the newly expanded JCC. Herb (z"l) and Carol (z"l) Amster, who were involved with the JCC since its foundation, provided generous support to the JCC and to countless other organizations in the Ann Arbor community.

Back in December 2022, the reopening of the gallery kicked off with local artists Julie Garvey and Bruce Friedman, known for their watercolor paintings and photography from around the world, respectively.

There was a wonderful turnout for the event, community members filling the gallery to browse and explore the artwork. Special thanks to Julie and Bruce for being the first to present their work.

On February 23, the JCC welcomed the community to the showcase of Ann Arbor artist Sue Cutler, known for her oil and watercolor paintings. The exhibition was complete with jazz music, played by Sue's husband, Jeff Fessler, and her daughter, Zoe Cutler. Sue's beautiful artwork is for sale at the JCC until the exhibit closes on March 9.

Coming up on March 23 from 6–8 PM, local artist Beverly Pelletier will make her debut at the Amster Gallery. Known for her abstract oil paintings, Beverly is excited to show her work to the community. Light refreshments will be provided.

We hope to see you at the exhibition on March 23! ■

Flight and Freedom: Artists Ruth Weisberg and Heather Stoltz in conversation

On March 15, Art and Scroll Studio, Women's Caucus for Art (WCA), and the WCA Jewish Women's Artists Network will present Flight and Freedom, a Zoom event featuring Judaica artists Ruth Weisberg and Heather Stoltz. The event is virtual and free at 9 p.m. EST.

Ruth Weisberg has been a pioneer for women in art and art education at every step of her accomplished career as an organizer, activist, and leader. Weisberg is well known for her paintings reflecting upon the cycle of life and the continuity of generations.

Heather Stoltz is a fiber artist who creates quilted wall hangings and fabric sculptures inspired by social justice issues, Jewish texts, and domestic life. Her work has been exhibited nationally and featured in *Quilts and Human Rights* and *Jewish Threads*.

Art and Scroll Studio is a Zoom series featuring Judaica artists. Each episode is dedicated to promoting a featured creator and maker of Judaica art. Find them at www.YouTube.com/@artandscrollstudio. For free tickets contact artandscroll@gmail.com or at https://bit.ly/WeisbergStoltzFreeTickets. ■

Heather Stoltz

Ruth Weisberg

Flight and Freedom

March 15, 2023

Please join us for an exciting evening to explore

The Incredible Potential of Israel's Rich Mosaic & Complex Society

with

Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh

Senior Envoy, Jewish Agency for Israel

First Druze Woman Member of Knesset (Israeli Parliament)
News anchor & journalist

Thursday, March 23, 2023

at UM Hillel

Mocktails will be served

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Federation's Main Event honors JCOR and interviews best-selling author Gavriel Savit

Randy Milgrom, past board president Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor held its Main Event on February 9 at Washtenaw Community College's Morris J. Lawrence Building — and hosted its largest crowd in five years. With more than 300 attending in person and another 60 tuning in by Zoom, the featured event of the evening was a live podcast recording of the *Unorthodox* podcast, which calls itself "the universe's leading Jewish podcast."

Gavriel Savit (L) in conversation with Unorthodox Podcast hosts Mark Oppenheimer, Stephanie Butnick and Liel Leibovitz

But first there was plenty of time for schmoozing — with a little bit of eating and drinking thrown in for good measure. Bringing the community together is a primary goal of the Main Event, and the atrium of the building was flooded at the beginning of the evening with old friends catching up and new friends making connections before all were finally ushered into the spacious auditorium to settle in for the evening's programming.

Under the direction of Decky Alexander — who is not only the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's Board President but also a professor of drama/theater education at Eastern Michigan University — the stage suddenly filled with five individuals (Shoshanna Wechter, Marty Shichtman, Max Grad, Eric Olsen, and Lynn Malinoff) telling their own story of having arrived in Ann Arbor and soon becoming connected to and engaged with the local Jewish community.

Alexander, effusive as always, followed with a welcome of her own, along with Federation Board Member Annie Wolock. Calling the Main Event "inclusive, illuminating, and … inspired," Alexander said it was one of her first "Jewish coming out parties. Having lived in this community for almost two decades," Alexander shared, "I did not know where or how to step into this shtetl, but the Main Event became my doorway into this diverse/divergent/eclectic, and collective Jewish community — and I hope it can be that for you as well."

Alexander also welcomed local officials from the broader community who were in attendance: President of Eastern Michigan University Jim Smith; Ann Arbor City Council members Dharma Akmon, Erica Briggs, Jen Eyer, and Travis Radina, and Mayor Christopher Taylor; Ann Arbor School Board Member Krystle DuPree; Washtenaw County Sheriff Jerry Clayton and Sheriff's Office Director of Community Engagement Derrick Jackson; State Representatives Felicia Brabec, Carrie Rheingans, and Jimmie Wilson, Jr., and State Senator Sue Shink; Eric Keller, of U.S. Senator Gary Peters' office; and "of course, our ambassador in Washington, D.C., U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell."

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's three guiding principles are Philanthropy, Engagement, and Convening. In recognition of those pillars, Alexander next introduced the first annual Pillar Award, newly created to recognize those in our community who most exemplify and contribute to the furtherance of those pillars. The inaugural Pillar Award was thereupon presented to the collaboration of Jewish Family Services and the six member congregations of JCOR (Jewish Congregations Organized for Resettlement) for their collective efforts resettling a Colombian refugee family in Washtenaw County.

"Love thy neighbor, care for the stranger, wherever you are on the faith continuum, are moral orientations for many of us," Alexander said, in presenting the award. "JFS and JCOR have ensured that hundreds of people, 'strangers in a strange land,' not just feel at home but find a home, through collective action, kindness, and continued collaboration."

The following individual Pillar Awardees were honored and recognized, with each crossing the stage to accept their award:

Jewish Family Services—represented by Shrina Eadah

Beth Israel Congregation—Deborah Greene

Temple Beth Emeth—Midge Cone

Pardes Hannah—Linda Jo Doctor and Renee Robbins

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan—Bob Savit, President, on behalf of Fruma Taub and Charles Weaver

Jewish Cultural Society—Madrikha Julie Gales

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation—Jeff Basch, on behalf of Alice Mishkin

Harvey Somers was also recognized for his coordination of JCOR's efforts across congregations.

In a survey conducted by Federation a few years ago, community members overwhelmingly recognized the Main Event as their single best chance to enjoy a community-wide celebration with friends and acquaintances. But the Main Event is also Federation's premier annual fundraising event — an opportunity not only to celebrate the bonds of partnership and friendship but also to help raise the financial support necessary to maintain and sustain Jewish organizations locally, nationally, and around the world. The 2023 Annual Community Campaign Chair Josh Sukenic and Co-Chair Larry Adler each made brief remarks about their "Why" — why they have become so involved in the Campaign and why they prioritize donating money to it each and every year. Among other things, each spoke of how they are humbled to honor the legacy of their living family members as well as their ancestors — and they both asked community members to consider their own "whys" when they give this year, "more than last year, please, if at all possible," to the 2023 Annual Community Campaign.

Once introduced by Shoshanna Wechter, the *Unorthodox* podcasters launched right in by recounting their trips earlier in the day to arrive in Ann Arbor for a live recording of their weekly podcast. *Unorthodox* is a production of *Tablet* magazine, and, as advertised, featured "genial banter from three very different Jewish perspectives" — *Tablet* journalists and hosts Mark Oppenheimer, Stephanie Butnick, and Liel Leibovitz. Butnick, who studied Religion at Duke and NYU, is currently Deputy Editor of *Tablet* and co-founder of its podcast network, Tablet Studios. Leibovitz is an Israeli-born journalist and senior writer at *Tablet*, while Oppenheimer, who is also a Senior Editor at *Tablet*, wrote a book in 2021 entitled *Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood* that brought him to Ann Arbor's Temple Beth Emeth for a talk last year.

Every episode of the podcast features an interview with a "Jew of the Week" or "Gentile of the Week," and the evening's interviewee was best-selling author, Broadway performer, and Ann Arbor native Gavriel Savit. His book *The Way Back* was on sale at the event, as was *The Newish Jewish Encyclopedia*, co-written by the three hosts of the Unorthodox Podcast.

Savit, while a bit coy about his supposed unseemly exploits as a rambunctious Hebrew Day School student (for which he offered an unequivocal apology several times over the course of the evening), was not just charming and funny but was also entirely forthcoming about his connection with Jewish practices, and how he imparts that to his two young children. He also answered several questions about his approach to his writing, which he described as an eclectic mixture of science fiction and Jewish magic.

Federation also raised well more than $1,000 through raffle ticket sales. Prizes were generously donated by Barry Bagels, York, Zingerman's, Knight's Steakhouse, Norton Flowers, and community member Lynn Malinoff. The top prize was a beautiful necklace from Lewis Jewelers. And Ann Arbor's own Emily Slomovits performed music throughout the event.

The Jewish Federation's Annual Community Campaign provides significant unrestricted funds to Federation's communal partners in Ann Arbor, Israel, and around the world. With funds raised from the Campaign, local community organizations are able to focus on their missions of serving the community instead of on securing the funds to pay staff, building, and program costs. The Campaign also supports community-wide initiatives of the Federation, such as combating antisemitism and ensuring financial sustainability of local community institutions through the LIFE & LEGACY® program.

For questions about the Main Event, about how to get involved in Federation, or for any other questions or comments, visit www.JewishAnnArbor.org, email info@jewishannarbor.org, or call (734) 773-3535. ■

Creation of a community mural at the J

By Drew Coel, JCC Marketing and Program Associate

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and sole sponsor Elise Weisbach are excited to host the creation of a community mural with artist Daniel Cascardo on Sunday, April 2 from 1-4 p.m. at 2935 Birch Hollow Drive! All members of the Ann Arbor community are invited to this free event to create an abstract, intergenerational art masterpiece.

An abstract painter and two-time TEDx Speaker based out of Metro Detroit, Daniel Cascardo's work has been described as "joyous and vibrant while creating a playground for the senses." Cascardo's art is featured at over 30 corporations and public institutions. For this program at the JCC, Cascardo will be creating outlines of a mural that community members can then come to paint, making for a memorable afternoon of togetherness.

Accredited pianist, vocalist, and producer Stefan Kukurugya will also be in attendance to play his beautiful music while community members are painting. Born, raised, and also based in Detroit, Kukurugya's credentials are longer than his name, having been a touring keyboardist for the late David Ruffin of The Temptations, providing sound effects for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and much, much more.

You won't want to miss this community event! Refreshments will be provided.

To learn more, please contact Noemi Herzig, Director of Jewish Cultural Arts and Education, at noemiherzig@jccannarbor.org.

We hope you come to the JCC to paint with us on Sunday, April 2! wishannarbor.org, or call (734) 773-3535. ■

Ann Arbor-Nahalal Student Exchange Trip of 2022: A chaperone's perspective

By Rachel Goldman

After three COVID-induced cancellations of the Nahalal Trip (March 2021, November 2021, and March 2022), it seemed that the December 2022 trip was actually going to happen! "My kids are going to Israel over winter break. I wish I could go too," I proclaimed to friends and family.

I was envisioning a trip much like my trips to Israel in 2000 and 2012, in which I gave invited talks and visited colleagues at various universities and research institutes. I was eager to visit my collaborators at the Weizmann Institute, Ben Gurion University, and the Soreq Research Center. Perhaps I would get a ticket on the same flight as the kids, visit my colleagues during the weekdays, and join the delegation for a few of the Shabbat events and other excursions. I was particularly excited about the kids going on the trip because it would be the closest thing to my own experience of living in Haifa with my family and attending Davide Yalin elementary school while my father was on sabbatical at the Technion in 1974.

Fast forward to Sunday, December 18. We were having our family Zoom with my parents and brothers in Minnesota when a text message came from the Federation. One of the chaperones would not be able to join the trip because of a broken leg. My parents and brothers said, "you should go," but the kids did not look too happy. After an initial conversation with Liora Rosen (Federation coordinator for the trip), we agreed that I would only be a chaperone if they could not find anyone else to do it. I had a lot of work to do anyway: finishing grading, editing papers, reviewing proposals, writing proposals, preparing for the next semester.

The alarm went off very early that Thursday morning, and we packed the car with suitcases, carry-ons, and backpacks. As the first to arrive at the Air Canada counter at Metro airport north terminal, we started the check-in line, with my new Costco spinner suitcase placed at the front. The Ann Arbor families began arriving, and I marveled in the excitement of the moment. It was amazing to see how the 9th, 10th, and 11th graders had grown yet how similar they looked to their younger selves. The Ann Arbor-Nahalal Student Exchange Trip of 2022 had officially begun!

The delegation of 18 teens and two chaperones arrived at Ben Gurion Airport on Friday. With a warm welcome from the Nahalali teens and chaperones, and most of our luggage retrieved, we boarded Moshe's bus and began the breathtaking trek to Moshav Nahalal in the Jezreel valley. Our first stop was the Nahalal Senior Center, where we met our host families and community members. After lighting the candles for the seventh night of Chanukah, pairs of Ann Arbor teens and the chaperones joined their designated host families to settle in for the evening at our Nahalal homes.

The next 10 days were filled with excitement as we toured Nahalal and visited various sites, including Akko, Beit Shearim, Beit Zaid, the Mahane Yehuda Shuk, the Kotel, Ramat Davide Air Force Base, the Tel Aviv Diaspora Museum, and Yaffo. Among our adventures, my favorites included visiting Yafe Nof Street in Haifa, site of my childhood apartment, and three very special events at Nahalal — spending a morning at Nahalal elementary school, planting trees at Fox Hill, and visiting the secret weapons cache (the "sliq") at the Avidov Farm.

Established in 1921 as the first Moshav in the land of Israel, Nahalal predates the establishment of the state of Israel. During those early years, several underground caches were utilized to hide weapons from the British. The sliq at Nahalal was secretly dug and built in 1943 under the guise of a cesspit for collection of urine from the nearby cowshed. The sliq — five meters deep with a footprint of 25 square meters — was operated by the Haganah for a few years before being sealed off during the British raids of the summer of 1946. In late 1947, the sliq at Nahalal was reopened and its arms were provided to the fighters in the War of Independence. In recent years, the Avidov family has converted the sliq to a museum that provides fascinating insights into the establishment of the state of Israel.

Monday, January 2, was our last full day in Israel. After spending the morning with the students and teachers at the Nahalal Elementary School, we had lunch with our Nahalali friends at the Burger Saloon in Tiv'on and went shopping with them at the Big Fashion Mall in Nazareth. Early Tuesday morning, we boarded Moshe's bus to begin the long journey home. In spite of that morning's activity at Mount Moriah, we made it through security at Ben Gurion airport without a hitch and our flight took off on time. However, the connecting flight from Toronto was delayed by several hours. Back in Metro airport north terminal, we were welcomed by eager parents, siblings, and for us chaperones — husbands!

For most of the delegation, luggage was retrieved at the baggage claim and families were able to return home. However, a few families had to venture back upstairs to the Air Canada ticket counter to file missing luggage reports. We finished with a few hours to spare before my first class of Winter term the next morning … ■

Shared Society Series: Youth futures

Liora Rosen, Israel & Overseas Program Manager Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

This is the third of six articles in the Shared Society Series. The first and second installments appeared in the September 2022 and December 2022 editions of the WJN.

When we think of a shared society, especially in the context of Israel, we often think of Jews and Arabs, or Israelis and Palestinians, but there are many aspects of society in which inequality, lack of opportunity, and discrimination persist, and many Israeli NGOs are focused on addressing these issues.

In this coming year, we will introduce you to some of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's partner organizations in Israel. Reflecting our Federation's values of tzedakah, community, tikkun olam, responsibility for fellow Jews (Kol Israel aravim zeh bazeh — all of Israel is responsible for one another), chesed (compassion), and collaboration, these organizations are working hard to build a more inclusive, diverse, equitable, and integrated Israeli society. Federation is proud to share in their vision and support their work.

One of Federation's partner organizations in Israel, Youth Futures, asks you to think about a shared society from a unique perspective — one of resources and opportunities rather than religious, cultural, or physical differences.

Youth Futures by the numbers:

245 mentors. 3,340 children. 10,020 direct beneficiaries (children and their parents). 10,210 graduates.

Youth Futures is a positive-intervention program that partners teen mentors with at-risk children for a long-term period of cooperative learning and growth. Mentors work with up to 16 children, focusing on personal, familial, social, and educational areas in an effort to give these kids the tools to navigate challenges and celebrate achievements in a constructive way. We know that, according to the famous Chinese proverb, "teaching a man to fish" is better than just giving a fish, but we also know that to succeed or overcome obstacles, it helps to have a village.

The Youth Futures program doesn't just work with the students, it also involves their families and helps families flourish. The program emphasizes full parental involvement and partnership — parents in participating communities receive help and guidance to access social services, manage their budgets, be more effective caregivers, and build emotionally supportive environments for their families.

Youth Futures mentors serve as significant adults in the lives of the child and their parents over a period of three years. They are there to guide families through positive change, and to intervene when challenges arise. Like many examples of positive growth, the relationship between the parties is the key to success.

As an organization, Youth Futures is able to mobilize families, local government agencies, the education system, and community institutions to support the child. The cooperation between all the parties ensures development and growth of both student and family — together, they forge a village.

As part of the Jewish Agency for Israel's Partnership2Gether program, the Ann Arbor area's partner branch of Youth Futures is in Nof Hagalil in the Jezreel Valley, Central Galilee, of Israel. Since their opening in 2006, the Nof Hagalil chapter has supported 736 students and their families. They currently operate in five schools with 9 mentors, 144 students, 432 direct beneficiaries, with 736 graduates of the program.

This past December, the Federation's Student Exchange participants visited one of the Nof Hagalil Youth Futures schools, the Begin Elementary School. There, they spent a morning with the children, planting container gardens and painting rocks with inspirational words.

A shared society has many perspectives, including equitable access to services and opportunities for a better future. Youth Futures works across the varied mosaic of Israeli society, from Bedouin villages, to immigrants, to migrant workers and their families. The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor is proud to partner with Youth Futures in a shared vision of creating a vibrant, inclusive, and secure society.

To learn more about how to connect with Israel from Washtenaw County, visit JewishAnnArbor.org or contact Liora Rosen at liora@jewishannarbor.org. ■

A trip to remember

By Student Exchange Participants

On December 22, 2022, 18 Jewish teens from greater Ann Arbor boarded a plane and started our adventure to Ann Arbor's partner community of Nahalal, Israel. Historically, the trip was only for local teens in 9th grade, but, having taken a hiatus during COVID, this year's trip included our peers in grades 9, 10, and 11. What seemed far-fetched (the trip was postponed twice), over the course of 2.5 months of orientations, became a reality and a trip to remember.

This trip would not have been possible without generous donations from our local community to the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's Annual Community Campaign. Thanks to funds from the Campaign that were allocated to Federation's Israel & Overseas program, our group was able to embark on a 12-day trip to Israel.

You may be picturing a group of young people on a regimented bus tour, which is partially true. But this trip — a tradition that started back in 2009 — is really to continue a friendship between two cities: Ann Arbor, Michigan and Nahalal, Israel, that was born many years ago. We are the latest beneficiaries of that friendship.

Although we heard a lot about Nahalal in our orientation sessions, it was a cool experience to see it and experience their life in real time. Nahalal is a small farming community — 3.3 square miles and less than 1,000 people, small. Everyone who lives in Nahalal knows each other because it's such a tight-knit community. The community has a unique physical footprint, designed in the shape of a circle extending outward. As the first moshav (cooperative agricultural community) in Israel, it holds a lot of important history. We learned about the history of Nahalal and of Israel from the personal perspective of people who lived there.

We are so grateful to have had this opportunity to be part of the Exchange Program! There were so many highlights to our trip, starting with the impromptu soccer games on our first day there, celebrating Hanukkah Israeli-style, day trips to places like Haifa, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem, visiting historical sites, exploring the markets, and best of all, having free time with our Israeli peers and getting to know them and their families. They were all very welcoming and eager to learn about us and life as Jews in Ann Arbor. Along the way, we learned about cultural differences between our lives and theirs, and how to embrace those differences. Our host families and everyone in Nahalal welcomed us so warmly; it was really like we had heard: Ann Arbor, Nahalal — two communities, one family.

We spent one particularly meaningful day with an organization in the Central Galilee called Youth Futures. Youth Futures is a beneficiary of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's Annual Community Campaign and is located in Ann Arbor's Partnership-2Gether region, a match facilitated by the international Jewish Agency For Israel.

Youth Futures is a mentorship program for at-risk kids in Israel. We visited the organization's Begin Elementary School and built a garden with the students there. Our time with them enhanced our knowledge and esteem of the Federation's mission to enrich the lives of Jews not just locally in Ann Arbor, but in Israel and all over the world. Youth Futures provides the youth they support an opportunity for a brighter future, and we were proud to spend time with them.

This trip helped us recognize the importance of our Jewish community and our relationship with Israel. We are deeply grateful to the Ann Arbor community, whose support made this adventure possible. ■

Calendar

March 2023

As our community eases into in-person events with sensitivity to changing pandemic safety, always check websites or call for updates before planning to attend anything listed here and for prayer services.

Wednesday 1

Parsha Lunch and Learn: AAOM. Join us Wednesdays in February to explore themes of the weekly Torah portion in the Book of Exodus. Zoom Link visit website. 12:30 p.m.

Yiddish tish: (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group): Zoom. About 45 minutes each of conversation and reading. Free and open to all those interested in Yiddish language, literature, and culture, no matter what level of proficiency. For more information, to get the link, and to make certain that we are meeting on a specific day, please email Elliot H. Gertel at egertel@umich.edu at least one day before scheduled meeting day every Wednesday (except major Jewish holidays). 2 p.m.

WTBE Gift Shop Open for In-Person Shopping: TBE. Washtenaw County's Only Judaica Shop! 4–6 p.m.

Teaching on Purim: Pardes Hannah. 7:30 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC. 8 p.m.

Thursday 2

Cantor's (Jewish) Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.

Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.

Talmud: Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Friday 3

Candle Lighting 6:09 p.m. Tetzaveh

Lunch & Learn with Cantor Hayut: TBE. Bring your lunch and learn with Cantor Hayut during this informal and social gathering. We explore different ideas throughout the year with participants guiding our subjects.12 p.m.

WTBE Gift Shop Open for In-Person Shopping:

TBE. Washtenaw County's Only Judaica Shop! 6–7:30 p.m.

First Friday Shabbat: JCS. All are invited to join the JCS at the JCC to welcome Shabbat. Dinner from a local restaurant follows a short observance that includes secular readings, songs, candle lighting, wine, and challah. Children are welcome. Dinner is free for JCS members. The cost of dinner for non-members is $10/person or $25/family. Registration required: www.jewishculturalsociety.org. 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 4

Havdallah 7:10 p.m.

Torah Study: TBE. Zoom. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Shabbat Morning Service: Pardes Hannah. 10 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. Tot Shabbat continues throughout the winter. Join us for a playful morning of Jewish songs, games, and stories. Challah and grape juice kiddush included. For kids ages 1 to 6, but all are welcome to join. 10:30 a.m.

Parsha Party with Morah Milka: AAOM. Children's programming for "walkers and talkers." Every Saturday morning. Michigan Hillel. 10:30 a.m.

Shabbat Schmooze: BIC. We invite our older elementary students (2nd–5th grade) to join us for some ice breakers, challah and juice, traditional Shabbat prayers, weekly Torah portion activities, and time with friends both old and new. 10:30 a.m.

Persian Purim Pageant: TBE. Celebrate Purim with Temple Beth Emeth by stepping back in time, into an ancient Persian celebration! Dress up and mingle with your favorite characters from the book of Esther, along with a few special guests. Put on your thinking caps and test your mettle by solving a Purim themed caper! Enjoy good friends and good fun, great conversation, and tasty food and drink! Raffle prizes and a live auction will conclude the evening. Adults only. Babysitting for kids 3 and up will be available and includes dinner and a movie! 7 p.m.

Melave Malka series: AAOM Authors: AAOM. Professor Rebecca Wollenberg of the Frankel Institute will present on her book, *The Closed Book: How the Rabbis Taught the Jews (Not) to Read the Bible* (Princeton University Press, 2023), followed by a Q&A with the audience. On Zoom. Registration information at the AAOM website. 8 p.m.

Sunday 5

Tanya: Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. 11 a.m.

Children's Purim Party: AAOM. Come celebrate Purim by creating an art project, dressing up in your costume, and making a delicious treat. At the home of a community member. 9 a.m.

Raising Children with Less Anxiety and More God: BIC. Using Eli Lebowitz's book *Breaking Free of Child Anxiety and OCD* and Jewish Sources, Rav Nadav and Lynne Caine will lead study and discussion of how we raise our children with less anxiety and more God. All parents are invited. In-person only. 10 a.m.

BIRS Purim Play and Teacher Appreciation for Parents and Students: BIC. BIRS's 4th and 5th grade will perform a Purim Play under the direction of Morah Carol Feldman. We will also be celebrating our BIRS teachers. 11 a.m.

Purim: the Face and the Mask: BIC. Shifra Epstein presents her catalog and exhibition on Purim. Zoom event. 1 p.m.

Family Purim Festivities: TBE. Free and open to the public. Participate in the retelling of the Purim story, sing silly Purim songs, show off your best costume, and then share your talents with TBE's first Purim Talent Show! Kid friendly snacks and drinks will be served. If you would like to perform in the talent show, please reach out to Rabbi Daniel or Cantor Regina at: rabbialter@templebethemeth.org or cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. There will also be a live auction and raffle prizes. Raffle tickets will be awarded to anyone who comes in costume or participates in the Talent Show and will also be available for sale at the event. 7 p.m.

Monday 6

BIC Purim Party and Megillah Reading: BIC. Beth Israel celebrates Purim with a Purim Party featuring activities for children, festive music provided by Neil Alexander and his band, a reading of the whole Megillah, and of course…hamantaschen! 5:30 p.m.

Purim Celebration and Megillah Reading: AARC. Games, festivities, and a Purim Spiel (short play) with the Beit Sefer. Lively, hybrid, and heavily abridged reading of the Scroll of Esther in English at JCC of Ann Arbor and on Zoom. A Hamantaschen Potluck Oneg will follow. Please come in costume and bring your own gragger (noise maker). Expect antics. Kids, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., all ages after 6:30 p.m.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 5:45 p.m.

Congregational Purim Services and Megillah Reading: AAOM. Maariv service at 7 p.m., followed by Megillah reading at 7:15 p.m.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 7 Purim

Shacharit service and Megillah reading: AAOM. 7:30 a.m.

Women's Megillat Esther Reading: AAOM. There will be an all-women's Megillat Esther reading at the home of a community member. All women are welcome. 9:45 a.m.

Twenty-five-minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.

Purim Megillah Reading with Refreshments: BIC. The whole Megillah will be read at this morning service. 9:30 a.m.

Talmud Tuesdays w/ Rabbi Alter: TBE. 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.

International Purim Celebration and Megillah Reading: Chabad and JCC. 5 p.m.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday 8

Parsha Lunch and Learn: AAOM. Join us Wednesdays in February to explore themes of the weekly Torah portion in the Book of Exodus. Zoom Link visit website. 12:30 p.m.

Yiddish tish Conversation & Reading Group: Every Wednesday, see above. 2 p.m.

WTBE Gift Shop Open for In-Person Shopping: TBE. Washtenaw County's Only Judaica Shop! 4–6 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC 8 p.m.

Thursday 9

Cantor's (Jewish) Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.

Spiritual Book Club with Cantor Emerita Annie Rose: TBE. 12 p.m.

Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.

Talmud: Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Friday 10

Candle Lighting 6:17 p.m. Ki Tisa

Lunch & Learn with Cantor Hayut: TBE. 12 p.m.

Elementary Shabbat and Dinner: TBE. Ages 5–10. Registration requested. $5 per person. 5:45 p.m.

WTBE Gift Shop Open for In-Person Shopping: TBE. Washtenaw County's Only Judaica Shop! 6–7:30 p.m.

Aura of Kabbalat Shabbat: BIC. Join us for a monthly Musical Kabbalat Shabbat led by Rabbi Aura Ahuvia in the Main Sanctuary and on Zoom. 6 p.m.

The 1913 Michigan copper strike with novelist Beth Kirschner: JCS. Second Friday Schmooze at the JCC. 7:30 p.m.

Saturday 11

Havdallah 7:18 p.m.

Torah Study: TBE. Zoom. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Gershowitz Shabbat: BIC. Honoring the blessed memory of Henry Gershowitz, a past president of Beth Israel well known for his devotion to the synagogue and for encouraging new people to become involved in leading a service. An opportunity for new people to become involved in a way they have not been before. 9:30 a.m.

Parsha Party with Morah Milka: AAOM. Children's programming for "walkers and talkers." Every Saturday morning. Michigan Hillel. 10:30 a.m.

Second Saturday Morning Shabbat Service. AARC at the JCC. This is a lay-led hybrid Shabbat Service at the JCC. Everyone is welcome! Zoom link will be sent out the week before the event. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Sunday 12

Tanya: Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. 11 a.m.

Monday 13

Talmud Study with Rabbi Dobrusin (via Zoom): BIC. All are invited to join our Talmud study class. We will read the text in Hebrew or Aramaic with an accompanying English translation and all discussions will be in English so no familiarity with Hebrew is required. 4 p.m.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 5:45 p.m.

Michal Raucher on "Jews for Choice: How are Jews Advocating for Abortion Rights?" EMU. 7 p.m.

Tuesday 14

Twenty-five-minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.

Talmud Tuesdays w/ Rabbi Alter: TBE. 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 6:30 p.m.

Idan Chabasov, The Challah Prince: Fed. Walk through the steps of making challah while sharing his Jewish journey to challah. Each participant will leave with a braided challah ready to bake. Sixth grade and up. Elementary-aged kids are welcome to join our kids' programming and care, which will include challah braiding and decorating, pizza, and a movie. Adults $18, kids $10. 6:30 p.m.

Spiritual Book Club with Cantor Emerita Annie Rose: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

"All Things Equal: The Life and Trials of Ruth Bader Ginsburg:" The Michigan Theater. 7:30 p.m.

Tea and Torah for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Flight and Freedom Art and Scroll Studio, Women's Caucus for Art (WCA) and the WCA Jewish Women's Artists Network. Zoom event featuring Judaica artists Ruth Weisberg and Heather Stoltz. 9 p.m.

Parsha Lunch and Learn: AAOM. Join us Wednesdays in February to explore themes of the weekly Torah portion in the Book of Exodus. Zoom Link visit website. 12:30 p.m.

WTBE Gift Shop Open for In-Person Shopping: TBE. 4–6 p.m.

Reducing Your Carbon Footprint: Local Transportation Systems: TBE. On Zoom. Registration required for the Zoom link. Speakers: Representative from AA Area Transportation Authority, "How to Use Public Transportation in AA"; Suzann Flowers, City of Ann Arbor, "Walking and Biking in AA": Phil Barr and Annette Fisch, Temple Beth Emeth, "Testimonials from All-season Bike Riders." 7:30 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC 8 p.m.

Sefaria Tutorial: AAOM. Learn how to maximize use of the sefaria.org, a living online library of Torah. Over Zoom, Rabba Yael will demonstrate how to navigate the texts, explore the library, and connect with the Sefaria community. Zoom link: bit.ly/SefariaTutorial. 8 p.m.

Thursday 16

Cantor's (Jewish) Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.

Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Aging Solo: TBE, BIC, JCC, JFS. At the JCC, Newman Lounge. 4 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.

Gary Shteyngart delivers the 33rd Annual David W. Belin Lecture in American Jewish Affairs: Frankel Center. Weiser Hall, 10th floor Event Space. Zoom registration: https://myumi.ch/Qqqrq. 5:30 p.m. reception, 6 p.m. hybrid lecture, 7:30 p.m. book signing.

Talmud: Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Friday 17

Candle Lighting 7:25 p.m. Vayak'hel-Pekudei

Lunch & Learn with Cantor Hayut: TBE. 12 p.m.

WTBE Gift Shop Open for In-Person Shopping:

TBE. Washtenaw County's Only Judaica Shop! 6–7:30 p.m.

LGBTQ Shabbat Potluck: TBE. Join us for a Shabbat dinner and candle lighting with members of the local queer community! Bring a dish to share with others, make new friends, and let us know what you'd like to see in future queer programming! Registration requested.

Saturday 18

Havdallah 8:26 p.m.

Torah Study: TBE. Online only. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. Tot Shabbat continues throughout the winter. Join us for a playful morning of Jewish songs, games, and stories. Challah and grape juice kiddush included. For kids ages 1 to 6, but all are welcome to join. 10:30 a.m.

Parsha Party with Morah Milka: AAOM. Children's programming for "walkers and talkers." Every Saturday morning. Michigan Hillel. 10:30 a.m.

Study Session on the Shema: Pardes Hannah. 7 p.m.

Sunday 19

Super Sunday: Federation. 9 a.m.

Tanya: Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. 11 a.m.

Raising Children with Less Anxiety and More God: BIC. Using Eli Lebowitz's book *Breaking Free of Child Anxiety and OCD* and Jewish Sources, Rav Nadav and Lynne Caine will lead study and discussion of how we raise our children with less anxiety and more God. All parents are invited. In-person only. 10 a.m.

Monday 20

Talmud Study with Rabbi Dobrusin (via Zoom): BIC. All are invited to join our Talmud study class. We will read the text in Hebrew or Aramaic with an accompanying English transla-

tion and all discussions will be in English so no familiarity with Hebrew is required. 4 p.m.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 5:45 p.m.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 21

Twenty-five-minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.

Talmud Tuesdays w/ Rabbi Alter: TBE. 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Bereavement Group: TBE. For women who have lost a life partner. 4 p.m.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 6:30 p.m.

Tea and Torah for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Wednesday 22

Parsha Lunch and Learn: AAOM. Join us Wednesdays in February at to explore themes of the weekly Torah portion in the Book of Exodus. Zoom Link visit website. 12:30 p.m.

WTBE Gift Shop Open for In-Person Shopping: TBE. 4–6 p.m.

Women's Rosh Chodesh Circle: TBE. In person and on Zoom. 6 p.m.

Rosh Hodesh Nissan Circle: Pardes Hannah. 7 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC 8 p.m.

Thursday 23 *Rosh Chodesh Nissan*

Rosh Chodesh Online Minyan: Pardes Hannah. 9 a.m.

Cantor's (Jewish) Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.

"Aspects of Disgust and Rabbinic Judaism" lecture by Jeffrey Rubinstein: Frankel Center. Hybrid Event. 2022 South Thayer Building. Zoom Registration to come. 12 p.m.

Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.

Beverly Pelletier opening at Amster Gallery: JCC. 6 p.m.

Talmud: Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Women's Rosh Chodesh Group: AAOM. 8:30 p.m.

Friday 24

Candle Lighting 7:33 p.m. Vayikra

Lunch & Learn with Cantor Hayut: TBE. 12 p.m.

WTBE Passover Sale: TBE. In the TBE Gift Shop. 12–7 p.m.

Kohenet Kabbalat Shabbat: Pardes Hannah. 6:30 p.m.

Jonathan Ornstein, Executive Director of the JCC Krakow, Shabbat Service: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Fourth Friday Kabbalat Shabbat. AARC. In person at the JCC and on Zoom. This is a hybrid service led by led by Debbie Field and Deborah Fisch. 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 25

Havdallah 8:34 p.m.

Torah Study: TBE. Zoom. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Parsha Party with Morah Milka: AAOM. Children's programming for "walkers and talkers." Every Saturday morning. Michigan Hillel. 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 26

Tanya: Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. 11 a.m.

WTBE Passover Sale: TBE. In the TBE Gift Shop. 3–7 p.m.

Monday 27

Talmud Study with Rabbi Dobrusin (via Zoom): BIC. All are invited to join our Talmud study class. We will read the text in Hebrew or Aramaic with an accompanying English translation and all discussions will be in English so no familiarity with Hebrew is required. 4 p.m.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 5:45 p.m.

Joyful Jewish Jams: JCLP. Queer Jewish folk artists Batya Levine and Aly Halpert. 6:30 p.m.

The Ones Who Remember book event. EMU. 7 p.m.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 7:30 p.m.

Torah on Tap: Pesach Learning: AAOM. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 28

Twenty-five-minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.

Talmud Tuesdays w/ Rabbi Alter: TBE. 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 6:30 p.m.

Tea and Torah for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Wednesday 29

Mizrahi Studies at the Intersection: Wieseneck and Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies Spring Symposium. Kalamazoo and Michigan Rooms, second floor of the Michigan League. March 29–31.

Parsha Lunch and Learn: AAOM. Join us Wednesdays in February at to explore themes of the weekly Torah portion in the Book of Exodus. Zoom Link visit website. 12:30 p.m.

Yiddish tish Conversation & Reading Group: Every Wednesday, see above. 2 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC 8 p.m.

Thursday 30

Cantor's (Jewish) Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.

Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.

Rabbi Arik Ascherman speaks on Pursuing a Progressive Human Rights Agenda in the New/Old Israeli Reality. At the JCC. Fundraising dinner ($100) 6 p.m. Talk and dessert reception, free. 7:30 p.m.

Talmud: Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Friday 31

Candle Lighting 7:41 p.m. Tzav

Lunch & Learn with Cantor Hayut: TBE. 12 p.m.

WTBE Passover Sale: TBE. In the TBE Gift Shop. 12–7 p.m.

Home Shabbat: From the Rabbi's Table to Yours (Online via Zoom only): BIC. Join Rav Nadav and his family for Kabbalat Shabbat service over Zoom (only) from their Shabbat table to yours on the last Friday of each month. 6 p.m.

Phone numbers, websites, and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM): 1429 Hill Street, 248-408-3269, annarborminyan.org

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-445-1910, aarecon.org

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC): 2000 Washtenaw Ave, 734-665-9897, bethisrael-aa.org

Chabad House: 715 Hill Street, 734-995-3276, jewmich.com

Eastern Michigan University Center for Jewish Studies (EMU): www.emich.edu/jewish-studies/

Frankel Center: 202 S. Thayer St., lsa.umich.edu/judaic/

Jewish Community Center (JCC): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 745-971-0990, jccannarbor.org

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-975-9872, jewishculturalsociety.org

Jewish Family Services (JFS): 2245 South State Street, 734-769-0209, jfsannarbor.org

Jewish Federation: 2939 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-677-0100, jewishannarbor.org

Pardes Hannah: 2010 Washtenaw Ave, 734-761-5324, pardeshannah.org

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE): 2309 Packard Road, 734-665-4744, templebethemeth.org

UM Hillel: 1429 Hill Street 734-769-0500, michiganhillel.org ■

Combatting antisemitism: Next steps

continued from page 5

Those interested in engaging in the JCRC or Community Education Task Force should contact the Jewish Federation's Community Relations Manager McKenzie Katz (mckenzie@jewishannarbor.org).

Advocacy

Several suggestions made at the Antisemitism Conversation focused on advocacy and understanding of the issue in various local spheres outside the Jewish community. Of particular interest was creating awareness or acknowledgment of the idea that antisemitism — or Jew Hatred — is an issue that requires similar responses and actions as other forms of hatred. During the follow-up conversation in January, three primary focuses for advocacy were identified: public schools, university campuses, and community.

An Advocacy Task Force is in development. There will be three subgroups for the areas identified above. The Jewish Federation is seeking community members with an interest in and/or relevant relationships in these areas who wish to engage in this work.

Community Security

The Jewish Federation, in partnership with other local Jewish agencies, has been focused for many years on upgrading the local security infrastructure. To further develop a communal approach to this problem, Federation is embarking on a partnership with Metro Detroit's Jewish Community Security Inc. organization to hire a Community Security Coordinator. This position would lead efforts to improve security in Jewish institutions specifically in Washtenaw County. Through Jewish Federations of North America's LiveSecure program, the greater Ann Arbor Federation will be eligible for a two-for-one funding match to support this position for the first three years. Fundraising efforts are already underway.

Those who wish to participate in the Advocacy Task Force or who would like to know more about or contribute to community security efforts should contact Eileen Freed (eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org).

To report an antisemitic incident to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), visit Michigan.adl.org. ■

Community engagement grants

continued from page 1

ist Congregation, the Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Federation. The group has come together to bring Idan Chabasov, known as the Challah Prince, for an interactive community program to take place March 14. This inclusive event is for anyone who loves sharing challah and stories — the challah dough for up to 100 participants will be prepared in the JCC's kosher kitchen, using a new commercial mixer that was purchased in part thanks to this grant.

Community Engagement Fund

The Community Engagement Fund is supported by the Jewish Federation's Annual Community Campaign to encourage organizations and individuals to work collaboratively on new, innovative initiatives that cultivate a strong, engaged, connected, caring, vibrant, and enduring Jewish community in Washtenaw County.

"I'm delighted with the submissions we received for this round of funding," said Federation Executive Director Eileen Freed. "The support provided by these funds has enabled two collaborative efforts to bring new, exciting, and engaging programs to our community."

The next round of Community Engagement Fund grants will be awarded this spring. The deadline for submission is March 31. Grant requests of $1,000–$5,000 will be considered and must be submitted by a partnership of three or more collaborators. Applicants are asked to submit a letter of intent to McKenzie Katz mckenzie@jewishannarbor.org by March 13. Decisions will be made within one month of the grant deadline.

The full application for both grants is available at JewishAnnArbor.org. For more information or to inquire, contact McKenzie Katz at mckenzie@jewishannarbor.org or (734) 677-0100 x245. ■

Recovery Seder

Save the Date!
Saturday April 8 from 4–8 pm

Chapel Hill Condominiums Clubhouse
3350 Green Road ,
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

This unique Passover celebration will utilize a Haggadah with resonances of 12 Step programs that was specially created for this event. It is geared toward anyone who is in recovery for addiction, family members, supporters, and even those who may be interested or curious about how the celebration of our festival of freedom is marked in this special way. Registration information will be available through the Temple Beth Emeth Website starting in early March.

A Lior Project event co-sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, and Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County. ■

Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor & Community Partners Present:
THE CHALLAH PRINCE
TUESDAY, MARCH 14
6:30PM
at the JCC of Greater Ann Arbor
$18/person
with special children's program!
Community, challah & stories... weaving it all together in a
Challah Braiding Workshop
Register at JewishAnnArbor.org
Temple Beth Emeth
Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor
Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor
Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation
bbyo
Proud recipient of the Jewish Federation's Community Engagement Fund

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FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH 2023
PICK UP
TUESDAY, APRIL 4TH
FROM 3PM-7PM*
at Shaarey Zedek
27375 Bell Rd. Southfield, MI. 48034
*please come at the time you select when placing your order
Passover
Shank Bone
Bitter Herbs
Haroseth
Horse Radish

Happy challah baking, happy Purim

Lonnie Sussman, special to the WJN

Let me introduce to you Yosef Lopez, also known as Joey. He is the son of Karla Goldman and Kim Jaffee and a senior at Community High School. Two years ago, I saw beautiful pictures on Facebook of the challahs he baked. Although I knew him when he was a student at the Hebrew Day School, Yosef and I met back in the months before his bar mitzvah celebration at Temple Beth Emeth. Recently we had the opportunity to speak more about how a teenager began baking challah.

Yosef told me that Shabbat dinner was always a big deal in his family and there was always a homemade challah. As a new bar mitzvah teenager, he wanted to continue his exploration of ways to mark the Shabbat and Judaism and thought about baking challah for his family. He looked at the *New York Times* Cooking website for guidance, and he also experimented with his own additions. He tried vanilla but thought that was "too much."

Yosef has settled on a recipe that includes both honey and sugar, which makes the challah particularly "fluffy." Sometimes he adds raisins or chocolate chips. Yosef says that the process of making challah and then delivering them to others is a meaningful way to connect to his community and Judaism. It's part of who he is now and who he wants to be as he moves through his adult life. He has started a business making and delivering challah to people and loves to gift people with a challah for new babies. For more information or to order a challah check out: Yosef's Challah (Instagram: Yosef.challah or http://facebook.com/karla.goldman)

Yosef's Challah

Makes 2 loaves

1 ½ packages active dry yeast (about 3½ teaspoons)
1 tbs and ½ cup sugar
¼ cup honey
½ cup vegetable oil, more for greasing bowl
5 large eggs
1 tbs salt
8 ½ cups all-purpose flour
Poppy or sesame seeds for sprinkling

PREPARATION In a large bowl, dissolve the yeast and 1 tablespoon of sugar in 1 ¾ cups lukewarm water. Whisk the oil into the yeast, then beat in 4 eggs, one at a time, with the remaining sugar, honey, and salt. Gradually add flour. When the dough holds together, it is ready for kneading. You can also use a mixer with a dough hook for both mixing and kneading. Place the dough onto a floured surface and knead until smooth. Clean out the bowl and lightly grease it, then return dough to the bowl. Cover it with plastic wrap and let rise in a warm place for 1 hour, until almost doubled in size. Dough may also rise in an oven that has been warmed to 150 degrees then turned off. Punch down dough, cover and let rise again in a warm place for another half hour.

To make a 6-braid challah, either straight or circular, take half the dough and form it into 6 balls. With your hands, roll each ball into a strand about 12 inches long and 1 ½ inches wide. Place the 6 in a row, parallel to one another. Pinch the tops of the strands together. Move the outside right strand over 2 strands. Then take the second strand from the left and move it to the far right. Take the outside left strand and move it over 2. Move second strand from the right over to the far left. Start over with the outside right strand. Continue this until all strands are braided. For a straight loaf, tuck ends underneath. For a circular loaf, twist into a circle, pinching ends together. Make a second loaf the same way. Place braided loaves on a greased cookie sheet with at least 2 inches in between. Beat remaining egg and brush it on loaves. Either freeze breads or let rise another hour. If baking immediately, preheat oven to 375 degrees and brush loaves again. If freezing, remove from freezer 5 hours before baking. Then dip your index finger in the egg wash, then into poppy or sesame seeds and then onto a mound of bread. Continue until bread is decorated with seeds. Bake in middle of oven for 35 to 40 minutes, or until golden. Cool loaves on a rack.

Purim Recipes

This is a big assumption, but I think many people know what hamantaschen are (Haman's ears or Haman's tri-cornered hat). I hope you have eaten them or even made them yourselves. However, I bet you aren't as familiar with Sephardi Purim traditions including baked goods and foods. One of the mitzvahs (commandments) of Purim is sending gifts of food to one another as found in Esther's Megillah (scroll) that we read in the evening and the next morning. It's also a tasty way to remember the defeat of Haman's project to rid the kingdom of the Jewish people. Another mitzvah on Purim is to have a festive meal. There are not really required foods for this meal, but there are Sephardi traditions for baked goods and food symbolizing parts of his body. Persian Jews made a rose-water flavored cookie sprinkled with poppy or sesame seeds to represent Haman's fleas! Bulgarian Jews serve a lemon vermicelli pasta dish to represent his hair! Jews from Rhodes have a Ladino recipe of a bread-based roll holding a boiled egg that has crisscrossed strips of dough over the egg to represent either a cage or a hanging. These foods may be delicious but the image of fleas, hair, and a cage or a hanging are a little much for me.

Caveos di Aman: Vermicelli Salad with Olives and Hard-Boiled Egg

The Book of Jewish Food by Claudia Roden

Serves 6

According to the tradition, the black olives and hard-boiled eggs were symbols of mourning. This dish connects to the mourning when the evil decree was declared as well as to hair.

1 lb vermicelli or other very thin noodles
6 tbs olive oil
Juice of 2 lemons
Salt and pepper to taste
30 black olives, pitted
3 hard-boiled eggs, cut in wedges

Cook the pasta in boiling salted water until done al dente. Drain, and dress with the olive oil and lemon juice beaten with salt and pepper. Mix in the olives and garnish with the wedges of hard-boiled eggs. Serve at room temperature.

Sambusak el Tawa: Iraqi chickpea turnovers

The World of Jewish Cooking by Gil Mark

I found this recipe at Jewish Women, Amplified, a blog of the Jewish Women's Archive (https://jwa.org/blog). I would also like to express my gratitude for the Internet for help in exploring Jewish recipes, traditions, and stories related to food.

I've been at many Purim meals where there was sushi, deli, or other meat-based meals, but some feature nuts, seeds, or other non-meat ingredients to reflect the tradition that Queen Esther ate a vegetarian diet so that she could continue to keep kosher. The turnovers and their fillings are a nod to the secrets and hidden elements of the Purim story. Make the dough first as it needs to be refrigerated before baking. Also, you may need to add an additional tablespoon or so to hold the dough together.

2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
½ stick butter or margarine, chilled
¼ cup vegetable oil
1 tsp mild vinegar or lemon juice
1 tsp salt
5–10 tbs ice water or chilled seltzer water
2 tbs vegetable oil
2 medium yellow onions, chopped (about 1 cup)
1 tsp ground cumin
¼ tsp ground turmeric
¼ tsp salt
Black pepper to taste
2 cups mashed chickpeas or 1 15-oz can chickpeas, drained and smashed

For the dough: place the flour in a large bowl and make a well in the center and add in the butter/margarine and oil and blend (with fingertips, two knives, a pastry blender, or a food processor) until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Put the ice water in a smaller bowl and add the vinegar or lemon juice and salt into it. Sprinkle the water, 1 tablespoon at a time, over a section of the flour. Gently mix with a fork to moisten. Push the moistened section aside and continue with another section of dough at a time until the dough just holds together. Knead briefly with the heel of your hand, form into a ball and flatten slightly. Refrigerate for about 30 minutes. The dough can be left in the refrigerator for up to one week or frozen for up to 3 months.

For the filling: Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onions and sauté until soft, about 5–10 minutes. Stir in the turmeric, extra salt, and pepper, and then add the chickpeas and cook until dry. Form the dough into 1-inch balls and flatten slightly, then press the bottoms into the sesame seeds and roll them into 3-inch rounds. Place a heaping teaspoon of the filling in the center of each dough round and fold over an edge to form a half-moon shape. Crimp the rounder edge or press with the tines of a fork. You can freeze the pastries at this point or move on to bake them. Bake at 375 degrees or until golden brown, about 20 minutes. Of course, you could fry the turnovers as it is more traditional, but this method is healthier.

Persian Rice Cookies with Rose Water

Molly Weinberg @ thinkweinberg.com

about 25 cookies

Maybe this is the cookie that looks like fleas but tastes delicious.

3 cups finely ground white rice flour
1 cup sugar
8 oz butter or margarine (Earth Balance is good for this) at room temperature (IMPORTANT)
1 egg
1 tsp rose water or up to 1 tbs
2 tsp ground cardamom
Poppy seeds or sesame seeds or crushed pistachios

Cream the butter and sugar for about 3–4 minutes. Add in the egg and keep mixing. Add the rose water and cardamom. Slowly add the flour, cup by cup, until the dough is smooth. Shape into 1-inch blobs and place on a baking sheet with parchment paper and greased. Press the back of a spoon down in the center of the ball to form a circular look. Sprinkle with the seeds or pistachios. Bake at 350 degrees for 12–14 minutes.

Hamantaschen Dough

This recipe is from my friend, Linda Jacobson. She found it in a booklet that came with her food processor, *Pleasures of Your Processor* by Norma Gilletz. Linda is an amazing baker and cook. She doubles, triples, and usually makes this recipe multiplied by six as part of her Mishloach Manot packages.

1 medium sized seedless orange, quartered and then processed in the above-mentioned food processor.
2 eggs
¾ cup sugar
½ cup neutral oil
2 tsp baking powder
2 ¾ cup flour (all-purpose)

Beat together the eggs, sugar, and oil. Then add the orange and then mix in the flour and baking powder. Chill the dough for about half an hour, roll it out and cut into circles (use a glass if you don't have a cookie cutter). Fill with your desired filling. Either grease the baking sheet or use parchment paper and bake at 350 degrees for about 10 minutes. Allow to cool on a wire rack. ■

Breaking down barriers to getting there at JFS

By Olena Dordik, Transportation Program Coordinator, Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

"Please know that our family realizes how much we benefit from JFS transportation services. We could not meet the needs of our family without these invaluable services, so at this time of thankfulness, we all feel the deepest gratitude for what you provide to the whole community. You all make the world a better place. May we offer our deepest bow of gratitude?" — JFS Transportation Client Family

In 2022, JFS transportation program booked almost 13,000 rides with service in Ann Arbor, Saline, and Ypsilanti. The JFS transportation program offers low-cost services to the agency's clients. When the program was first launched in 2006, its mission was to ensure that elderly refugee clients have access to the healthcare system as well as resettlement services. Later, the program was expanded to serve general older adult populations, as well as veterans, individuals with disabilities, and vulnerable community members who found themselves in difficult life situations. Like above, every day we hear words of appreciation from many clients stating that JFS improves the quality of their life.

From the feedback gathered from our clients, seven out of 10 people would not have been able to regularly access their medical appointments if it were not for the JFS transportation program. Most of our clients are not able to use the fixed-route bus service due to various limitations. Our partnerships with healthcare providers and local care management agencies, accompanied by our customer service and proactive approach, help our provider partners reduce stress while booking rides for their clients We have set up simple communication processes that enable community organizations and social workers to efficiently serve their clients and save time.

JFS offers low- to no-cost transportation to uninsured patients and individuals who are not eligible for other state/federal benefits for various reasons. Medical appointments are JFS transportation program's top priority and include doctor visits, physical therapy, labs, prenatal visits, etc. We also offer trips to grocery stores as well as places of various social activities. JFS transportation also helps the agency's refugee clients with rides to their place of employment until they become self-sufficient.

We are grateful for our community partners who help us address the transportation needs of our friends and neighbors in Washtenaw County.

Feonix Mobility Rising
Access to Care
My Community Care initiative by CHRT, U-M
Ann Arbor Public Schools
Silver Club (U-M Memory Programs)
Trinity Health System

JFS uses innovative dispatching software that has trip optimization capabilities. Most importantly, we have a great team of employees with excellent problem-solving and customer service skills. Our drivers are also patient and caring individuals. They do everything possible to help clients successfully complete their trips.

Our current transportation staff includes Program Director, Program Coordinator, Scheduler, and nine drivers. Our fleet consists of nine vehicles. Most operational costs are funded by state and federal assistance, grants, as well as the agency's philanthropic efforts; however, we see a pressing need for additional services in the area as funding continues to be limited. To scale our offerings, support from those in our community who understand the needs of those who cannot access or afford public transportation is essential.

To share a ride with a neighbor in need, please visit www.jfsannarbor.org to make a gift. Our mission is to professionally serve our clients, build partnerships with healthcare and other service providers, and create a great environment in the workplace. ■

Know a teen writer passionate about Judaism, feminism, and social justice?

The Jewish Women's Archive is accepting applications for the 2023–2024 Rising Voices Fellowship! The Rising Voices Fellowship is a leadership development program for Jewish young women in grades 10–12 with a passion for writing and an interest in Judaism, feminism, and social justice who want to participate in a community that centers the experiences of Jewish women.

This 10-month program offers a unique curriculum exploring Jewish women's history and identity, giving Fellows the tools to use their voices for social change.

As we seek to build a pluralistic and representative community of Rising Voices Fellows, we strongly encourage applications from LGBTQ+ teens, teens of color, teens with disabilities, and Mizrahi and Sephardi teens.

JWA embraces expansive understandings of what it means to be Jewish and a woman. We welcome and encourage applicants from any Jewish background, as well as non-binary, genderqueer, and gender-questioning applicants who want to explore the identity "Jewish woman" in all its complexity.

Due April 3. Find the application at: jwa.org/risingvoices/apply

Have someone in mind who would make a great Fellow?

Contact Rising Voices Fellowship Director Sarah Quiat at squiat@jwa.org with your recommendation. ■

Head east to The Regal Beagle for Westside BBQ

By Candace Bulkley and Trina Fuller

Candace and Trina became friends in the Temple Beth Emeth adult b'nai mitzvah class that graduated in 2022. They will be honing their palates, visiting, and writing about a variety of independent, locally owned Washtenaw County restaurants, catering to a variety of dietary preferences.

The Regal Beagle

817 E. Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti

(734) 961-7045

https://regalbeagleypsi.com/

Open Tuesday–Sunday; BBQ service begins at 4 p.m. daily

Candace Bulkley and Trina Fuller

If you have been missing the Westside BBQ since the Fingerle Lumber property was sold to the University of Michigan, resulting in its closure, just head east to the Regal Beagle. It's a cash only, rough-around-the-edges bar on Michigan Ave. in Ypsilanti. Matteo Melosi, former owner of Westside BBQ, is general manager of the bar and lovingly tends his smoker to put out some of the best BBQ this side of Kansas City.

When you walk into this long-time Ypsilanti establishment, you'll hear the jukebox playing old favorites and find a well-stocked bar. The BBQ menu changes daily and is updated on The Regal Beagle Facebook page. You can also call and inquire about the daily specials.

On the night of our visit, we were treated to mouthwatering and tender smoked ribeye steak. Like all of the meat served here, the thinly sliced steak was seasoned simply with salt, pepper, and smoke.

The flavorful quarter chicken was perfectly tender and juicy and wore the tell-tale pinkish hue of smoking like a badge of honor. Additional flavor comes from the sauce, which is homemade Kansas City-style with brown sugar and vinegar. Our group shamelessly devoured the generous portions of decadent cheesy potatoes — which were also cooked on the smoker — that were included with our meals.

Contrasting side dishes are essential when enjoying BBQ — they need to have a vinegary bite to cut through the richness of the meat. Our tasters really enjoyed the tangy collard greens, the crispy cabbage slaw, and house-made spicy pickle slices. They did their job deliciously!

Melosi only uses cherry wood sourced from an orchard in Homer, Michigan, in his smoker, which can be seen in the parking lot with cords of wood surrounding it. Melosi said that the wood he purchases has never been sprayed with pesticides and is poison ivy free. He explained that wood which has been exposed to poison ivy is harmful when burned and should never be used in a smoker or come into contact with food. Matteo Malosi is no fly-by-night pitmaster — he really knows his stuff!

As with most BBQ joints, you will find treif on the menu. The staff was incredibly helpful in assisting our group avoid these menu items while ordering. Will you find brisket on the menu every night? No. Beef ribs? No. Lamb chops? No. Every item they smoke is special — made with care and respect. Melosi wants you to experience the uniqueness of his craft. The Regal Beagle opens at 4 p.m. Go early because quantities are limited to what they can fit on the smoker, and they sell out every day, usually before 8 p.m.

The bartender, Heather, was friendly and made sure our glasses were full all night. A couple of our dining companions took advantage of the "Happy Meal" special — a can of Pabst Blue Ribbon beer and a shot for $5. The bar and the BBQ are separate businesses and there is limited table service. You order and pay for your food in the back, and drinks at the bar. There are a handful of tables available for you to enjoy your dinner and a drink if you arrive early enough to get one. Otherwise plan on taking your food to-go in true BBQ style. Conveniently, all meals are served in carry-out boxes. Bring cash, because they don't accept anything else, though there is an ATM available. ■

Ann Arbor Party and Events Showcase returns to the J!

By Elizabeth Churnesky and Drew Coel, Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor

Looking for vendors for your next party or event? Look no further! The JCC is thrilled to report that the Ann Arbor Party and Events Showcase is back! This event will be held at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor on Sunday, March 5 from 11 a.m - 2 p.m. The expo will feature a wide range of local vendors from southeast Michigan to provide services for your upcoming event such as weddings, b'nai mitzvahs, graduations, and much, much more!

In collaboration with the Showcase are Staci Kennedy, founder of event planning business *Who's Got the Time?*, and Yael Zoldan, owner-operator of event design studio *Designs that Matter.* Both operating out of Ann Arbor, Kennedy and Zoldan bring their expertise and professional relationships together to create a wonderful expo for the community at large.

This expo is a great way for community members to connect with vendors who can meet their event needs. As an attendee, you will have the opportunity to speak with DJs, try out photo booths, and sample delicious food from some of our favorite caterers. According to Zoldan, "This event is designed to be one-stop shopping for all event needs."

The Ann Arbor Party and Events Showcase is free of charge to attendees and open to the public. Advanced registration is suggested (but not required) to help vendors prepare by visiting jccannarbor.org. For more information on attending or to participate as a vendor, contact Staci Kennedy at staci@whosgotthetime.com or Yael Zoldan at yael@designs-that-matter.com.

We hope to see you at the Ann Arbor Party and Events Showcase on March 5! ■

You and your family are invited to

The Jewish Cultural Society's Community 2nd Seder

Thursday, April 6, 2023
6:00 pm at the JCC*

For details, visit www.jewishculturalsociety.org

Registration is required:
www.jewishculturalsociety.org

Donations are appreciated, but not required.

***Includes ritual foods only, not dinner.**

The Jewish Cultural Society is the Ann Arbor area's secular humanistic Jewish community.

M | LSA JEAN & SAMUEL FRANKEL CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

FRANKEL CENTER EVENTS

Visit lsa.umich.edu/judaic for more information.

33rd Annual David W. Belin Lecture in American Jewish Affairs:

An Evening with Gary Shteyngart
March 16
5:30pm Reception
6:00pm Hybrid Lecture
7:30pm Book Signing
Weiser Hall, 10th Floor Event Space
Zoom Registration: https://myumi.ch/Qqqrq

Aspects of Disgust and Rabbinic Judaism
Jeffrey Rubenstein
March 23, 12pm
Hybrid
2022 South Thayer Building
Zoom Registration: https://myumi.ch/MrzeV

Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies Symposium:

"Mizrahi Studies at the Intersection: The Politics of Ethnicity"
March 29-30, Kalamazoo and Michigan Rooms, Michigan League
March 31, East Conference Room, Rackham Graduate School

The University of Michigan College of Literature, Science and the Arts greatly values inclusion and access for all. We are pleased to provide reasonable accommodations to enable your full participation in this event. Please contact Jillian Luciow at js-event-coord@umich.edu if you would like to request disability accommodations or have any questions or concerns. We ask that you provide advance notice to ensure sufficient time to meet requested accommodations.

LSA.UMICH.EDU/JUDAIC • JUDAICSTUDIES@UMICH.EDU • 734.763.9047

Zingerman's DELICATESSEN

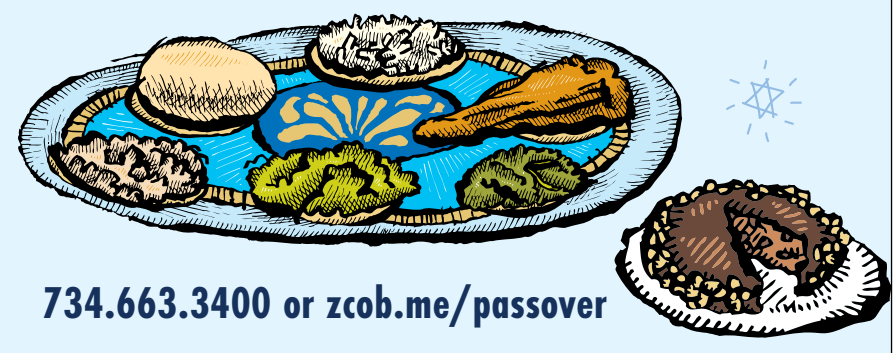
Join us on **Sunday, March 19** for a

#FRIENDSEDER™
Community Brunch!

Enjoy and learn with our Seder inspired menu and special guests!
Hosted at Zingerman's Greyline in downtown Ann Arbor.
zingermansdeli.com/events

celebrate passover

with traditionally made, full flavored Jewish Foods from Zingerman's Delicatessen



734.663.3400 or zcob.me/passover

Charlie Butter, neuroscientist and fisherman

Charles M. Butter, PhD (1934–2023), also known as Charlie, was a true connoisseur of life. He passed away on February 2 after a long rich life shaped by living with, but never bowing to, polio and post-polio syndrome.

Charlie was known for his love of classical music and jazz; the modern artists Milton Avery, Karl Appel, and Alexander Calder; Italian food, fresh fish, French wines; and Cuban cigars. He was a world traveler and especially enjoyed his time in France, Italy, England, and the Netherlands for work and pleasure; in Israel and California for family; in Alaska and Michigan for fishing; and in Vermont for cheddar cheese and maple syrup. And, of course, in and around Boston for the Red Sox, Harvard reunions, and the vibrant autumn New England colors. Charlie was a renowned Professor of Neuroscience at the University of Michigan who expanded the knowledge of his field and inspired generations of students.

What many didn't know was that Charlie achieved all this despite contracting polio and enduring multiple surgeries up through early adulthood. In his elder years, post-polio disease ravaged his body. Yet he remained a curious, if curmudgeonly, engaged scholar and traveler and devoted husband, father, and grandfather to the very end.

Charlie was born in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1934, to Jewish parents Max and Helen Butter, and had one beloved older sister, Audrey. At one year old he was struck with polio, which shaped his childhood. As other children played outdoors, he could only be pulled in a wagon by his mother. From age five to 18, he had multiple surgeries at Boston Children's Hospital. For months after each surgery, he had to stay in bed and read, play dominoes and checkers with Audrey, relish sandwiches from the local Jewish deli, enjoy Mickey Mouse cartoons, and listen to music.

Spending so much time in hospitals fueled his interest in science and he longed to become a physician. Upon recommendation of his doctor, Charlie took up swimming to strengthen his muscles. His parents bought a summer home on Furnace Pond in Pembroke, Massachusetts where he could spend time in the water. He refused to let polio stop him from living. His aunt Eunice bought him a fly-tying kit during one of his long hospital stays, which started a lifelong passion for fishing (despite the fact that his wife, Irene, would eventually end up catching the biggest fish).

His family moved to Newton, Massachusetts, and Charlie continued his dedication to exercising his body and his mind. He graduated top in his class from Newton High School, and he was thrilled when Brown University accepted him until he got into Harvard. He knew it was there that his intellect and passions would truly flourish.

Before leaving for Harvard, his doctor at Boston Children's made sure that Charlie learned how to safely fall and get back up on his own. Walking around Cambridge with a leg brace would be treacherous, especially with snow and ice. In 89 years, Charlie never broke a bone.

After undergraduate studies, Charlie went to Duke University, where he studied physiological psychology, now called neuroscience, and met his beloved wife, Irene.

Picture it. It's Hanukkah in North Carolina in 1955. There are very few Jewish students at the university. A lovely PhD student named Irene Hasenberg and her roommate, Phyllis, invite fellow students to their apartment to celebrate the holiday. Phyllis invites Charlie, a fellow psych department student. The scent of latkes is so alluring that Charlie explores the kitchen, finding Irene at the griddle. He is smitten. They chat. And the rest is history. Their mutual love of latkes resulted in a 66-year marriage, two kids, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Irene and Charlie eloped to Amsterdam in 1957, then moved to Washington, D.C., where Charlie worked for the National Institute of Health as a post-doctoral fellow, and their dear daughter Ella was born. In 1962, Charlie got an offer at the University of Michigan as an Assistant Professor of Psychology, and the family moved to Ann Arbor. In 1963, their beloved son Noah was born at St. Joe's hospital.

During this same decade, in the wider world of public health, Dr. Salk developed his polio vaccine. On April 12, 1954, at a press conference at the University of Michigan, it was announced that the polio vaccine was 80–90% effective against paralytic polio. The U.S. government licensed it the same day and began widespread vaccination. It was 20 years too late for Charlie, but wonderful news for the world.

Charlie became a full professor in 1968 and retired in 1999. He held research fellowships at Harvard, Oxford, and the University of Florida and was the author of over 65 peer-reviewed research articles. He changed the way we think about how the brain pays attention and how it interprets and understands what it processes. His textbook, *Neuropsychology: The Study of Brain and Behavior*, was published in 1968.

Charlie presented his research at International Neuroscience Society conferences around the world. This allowed him and Irene to travel to Sardinia, France, and Croatia, among other locations.

As he got older, his post-polio became more challenging and confined him to a wheelchair. But this didn't crimp his gentlemanly style or curtail his courage as he continued driving, fishing, and living an independent life. He and Irene traveled to Israel for the marriage of their granddaughter Amelie, traveled to Alaska to tie flies and fish, and secured prime seats at Fenway Park to cheer on the Red Sox. Charlie was always clad in dapper attire. It might take him some time to get properly dressed, with a crisp collared shirt, vest, pressed pants, and a brimmed hat, but those were essential.

Charlie continued his academic adventures by writing two additional books, *Crossing Cultural Boundaries: Universals in Art and their Biological Roots* (2011) and *Exploring and Exploiting: How the World of Living Things Works, From Evolution by Natural Selection to How Some Businesses Flourish* (2022). These books were written painstakingly, with utter determination, sometimes with one hand or one finger, as post-polio syndrome stole his dexterity.

His persistence teaches us to go forth and explore, despite our limitations, and to vigorously embrace curiosity about ourselves, art, and the world. Charlie is now free from suffering and leaves us with beautiful memories and the courage to continue life's journey, as arduous as it may be, together.

Charlie is preceded in death by his sister Audrey Butter. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Irene Hasenberg Butter; his daughter Ella Butter and his son Noah Butter and Noah's wife Melissa Rosenberg; his granddaughters Amelie Navon and her husband Guy Navon, Shireen Nassar and her husband Alaa Khateeb, and grandson Jonah Butter; and his great-grandchildren Adam and Maya Navon and Amir Khateeb. May his memory be a blessing.

Donations to honor Charlie Butter can be made to Post-Polio Health International at www.post-polio.org, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org/givehope, or a charity of one's choice. ■

Marilyn Krimm, Jewish musical artist

by Deborah Meyers Greene

With great sadness, we acknowledge the passing of Marilyn Krimm, 94, who died on January 25. Marilyn arrived in Ann Arbor in the summer of 1950 as the new bride of a promising post-doctoral fellow in physics, Samuel Krimm. Over the next seven decades, she became a mainstay of the Jewish community, an active member and president of Hadassah, and a generous lifetime supporter of Women's American ORT. In musical Ann Arbor, she was a successful scholar and authoritative performer, leader, mentor, and teacher, and she and husband Samuel established the eponymous Marilyn and Samuel Krimm Musical Arts Fund at the Jewish Community Center. And she was a cherished friend to countless community members who were deeply touched by her intangible qualities of grace and caring.

In the mid-1960s, Marilyn was mother of two young boys when the New York City Opera offered her several performances in the role of Musetta in Puccini's La Bohème.

Ultimately, she chose to focus her immense talents and energy on her young family while still learning and refining her instrument. In 1971, she completed a Master of Music, followed eight years later by her Doctorate in Musical Arts, both in voice performance. In 1973, she recorded the Hebrew- and Yiddish-language *Songs of Our Past,* an album that was adapted to compact disc in 2013. The CD subsequently joined the collections of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, The Jewish Museum on Fifth Avenue, and the Museum of Jewish Heritage at Battery Park. Throughout, Marilyn built a 10-plus-page performance repertoire in southeast Michigan and northern Ohio venues, which included the Detroit Company of the Metropolitan Opera and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Marilyn dedicated more than a decade in the 1980s and 1990s to cantorial leadership at Temple Beth Emeth. She then established the Chaverim B'Shirim choral group for the advancement, performance, and appreciation of the music of Jewish composers with a special focus on the Broadway classics that built the Great White Way. She continued for three decades to lead Chaverim B'Shirim, with whom she held rehearsals in late-2022 for a planned spring 2023 concert.

For 73 years, Marilyn was the beloved wife of Samuel Krimm. She was the cherished mother of David (Peter Bradley) Krimm and Daniel Krimm.

She was predeceased by her siblings, Esther Gochman (late Arthur) and Aaron Neveloff (late Bess); and her parents, Abraham Neveloff and Fanny Neveloff. ■

Obituaries

Peter Jon Nagourney, 82, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, died on January 20. Dear husband and life partner to Reena Liberman for 43 years.

Deeply proud father of sons, Tal Nagourney (Rebecca Kilberg) and Micah Nagourney. Son of the late Rove Nagourney and the late Anne Nagourney. To know more about Peter, see his website: www.nagourney.com. Contributions may be directed to Seva Foundation, Attn: In Memory of Peter Jon Nagourney, 1786 Fifth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710, or The Library Green Conservancy, c/o Frank Wilhelme, Treasurer, Attn: In Memory of Peter Jon Nagourney, 1405 Lutz Avenue, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103.

Charlene Rooth Zand, formerly of Ann Arbor, died on February 4, at the age of 92 in Rochester, New York. Pre-deceased by her beloved husband of 70 years Robert ("Bob") Zand, parents Dorothy Zaretsky and George Rooth, and brother Alan Rooth. Cherished mother of

Martin (Ellen Ingram), Joel (Renee Ghert-Zand), and Dina (Adrian Zelazny). Loving grandmother of Adrienne Zand, Sonia Zand, Amitai Zand, Hillel Zand, Ezra Zand, Tamar Zelazny and Ariela Zelazny, and many nieces and nephews.

Charlene was born in Chicago, Illinois, on June 10, 1930, where she grew up. She received a full scholarship to attend Northwestern University from Hillel International where she was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech and Language Pathology. Charlene continued her studies at The City College of New York where she earned an M.A. in Psychology and was subsequently awarded her PhD in Special Education from the University of Michigan. Charlene worked for many years as a skilled clinical speech pathologist who treated both pediatric and adult patients, taking pride in helping others discover or recover after a disability or illness.

She met her husband Bob at a national Hillel conference in Cleveland when she tripped on the stairs of an art museum, and he graciously helped her up. They made a life first in New York, then in Waltham, Massachusetts, and raised a family in Ann Arbor, where they lived for over 50 years. In 2022 they celebrated their love on their 70th wedding anniversary.

Charlene took great joy in the cultural life of the University of Michigan, including concerts, theater, and dance. Her Jewish advocacy spanned her lifetime, including active support of Hillel, Hadassah, Beth Israel Congregation in Ann Arbor, and many Jewish charities. Charlene's sweet tooth was legendary, with a magical ability to make a box of chocolates or cookies in the pantry disappear. Her sense of esthetics was reflected in her love of classical and Jewish music, mid-century modern furnishings, and Inuit carvings. She and Bob often visited friends and attended professional conferences worldwide, including Canada, Israel, and Europe. Charlene's inner determination, honesty, and pride were second only to her fierce love of family, especially her grandchildren. She will be missed by all.

The family would like to thank the staff of Cottage 2, Home 1 at the Jewish Home of Rochester for their loving care. Donations may be made in Charlene's memory to Beth Israel Congregation in Ann Arbor Michigan (https://www.bethisrael-aa.org) or Northwestern University School of Communication, Center for Audiology, Speech, Language and Learning https://communication.northwestern.edu/about/support.html

Ellyne Monto, 88, of Ann Arbor, died on January 31. Beloved wife of 64 years of Dr. Arnold Monto. Cherished mother of Sarah Monto Maniaci, Jane (Benjamin Taub) Monto, Richard Monto, and Stephen Monto. Proud grandmother of Samantha (Alexander Smirnov) Maniaci, Zoe (Sean Davis) Maniaci, Jacob Maniaci, Sydney Maniaci, James, Katherine, and Caroline Taub, and Amanda, Emily (fiancé Brian Ray), and Allison Monto. Loving sister of the late Barry Polsky. Dear sister-in-law of Myra Polsky and Charles Monto. Also survived by other loving relatives and friends.

Robert "Bob" Haftel, 91, of Waverly, Pennsylvania, died peacefully at home on Wednesday, January 18. Bob was born and raised in the Bronx and graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School and New York University. He served his country honorably in the Army during the Korean War, including writing for Stars & Stripes while stationed in Japan. Upon his return to the States, his sister, Carol Haftel, set him up on a blind date with one of her sorority sisters, Sandra Nelson. They danced together for the first time on New Year's Eve 1956 at The Rainbow Room and were married on January 19, 1958.

Bob initially pursued a career in journalism including serving as Editor in Chief at Chilton Company for Boot & Shoe Recorder followed by Jewelers Circular Keystone, the trade magazine for the jewelry industry. During that last position, he was wooed by members of the jewelry industry, switched careers to sales, and never looked back. He had an incredibly successful career at ODI Original Designs, Inc., followed by serving as head of sales for Tessler & Weiss/Premesco, Inc. of Union, New Jersey, until his retirement.

He was known for his integrity, work ethic, and honesty. He and Sandra instilled those same qualities in their three children, who pursued careers in medicine, law, and education. Bob and Sandy were known for opening their home to all who needed a place to eat, and Bob was an accomplished chef. A devoted husband and father, Bob never had Sandy out of his mind when she succumbed to ovarian cancer far too early. It was his love and devotion to Sandy that kept him alive and involved in the lives of his children, grandchildren, siblings, and friends. He reveled in their success and provided comfort in their losses. He was known for his good humor and jokes. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with friends and family.

He is predeceased by his parents, his brothers Alfred and Howard Haftel, and his bride and love, Sandra.

He is survived by their children, Hilary Haftel and husband Dan Green, Benjamin Haftel and his wife Jennifer, and Rachel Gilbert and her husband Teal, as well as his grandchildren, Jeremy, Joshua, Hannah and her partner Kearon Chase, Jacob, Lirit, Shoshana, Jack, Aiden, and Sadie, as well as his great granddaughter Kennedi. He is further survived by his sister, Carol, and sisters-in-law Alma and Helene, whom he loved completely, as well as many loving nieces and nephews.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Rich Albert (caregiver & friend), Caregivers of America, Allied Hospice, and Lawrence E. Young Funeral Home.

In lieu of traditional remembrances, the family asks, with gratitude, that donations in Bob's name be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (stjude.org) and Griffin Pond Animal Shelter in South Abington Township (griffinpondanimalshelter.com).

Pure olive oil

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, Chabad of Ann Arbor

The Torah portion that we will read the Shabbat of March 4 will be Tetzaveh. We read of G-d's command to Moses regarding the olive oil for the menora, as well as the priestly garments and the additional garments of the High Priest. The portion concludes with the instructions of the seven-day initiation into the priesthood of Aaron and his four sons.

The Torah portion begins with G-d telling Moses about the special olive oil: "And you shall command the children of Israel, and they shall take to you pure olive oil, crushed for lighting, to kindle the lamps continually."

To get the purest olive oil, the olive was crushed in a mortar, and the first drop expressed was used for the oil to light the menora. Only the oil extracted this way could be used to light the menorah. The remainder of the olive was ground to extract more oil, but this oil was not for the menora.

What can we learn from this?

The kindling of the menora symbolized lighting up the souls of the Jewish people. For this, only the purest olive oil, extracted through crushing, was used.

The purest comes out through being crushed. It is the crushed, that ignite Jewish souls.

We all are "crushed," we are tested with suffering in one form or another. What we do with it is our choice. You can choose to wallow in self-pity, or you can use your "crushing" experience to lift up those around you.

Choosing to use your experience for the positive will not only uplift those around you, but it will give meaning and purpose to your situation.

Before ALS, I was talented. I could teach, lecture, sing, dance, play guitar, and I was strong. Within two years, I watched that all slip away. Now I'm left with my heart, my brain, and my smile. Being crushed has brought stronger connections, new abilities, higher purpose, and deeper meaning. Before, I used my talents to make people happy, and to educate them. Now I get to do that, and much more.

With this attitude, I have gained an added extra. I feel happy and fulfilled, and the people around me seem happy and uplifted. Yet, it is time for the crushing to end, and enjoying the light to begin. May it happen now with Moshiach. ■

Simchas and Sorrows

The Washtenaw Jewish community sends condolences to:

Hilary Haftel on the death of her father, Robert Haftel, January 18.
Samuel Krimm on the death of his wife, Marilyn Krimm, January 25.
Arnold Monto on the death of his wife, Ellyne Monto, February 1.
Martha Oleinick and Arthur Oleinick on the death of their son, Robert Oleinick, February 2.
Irene Butter on the death of her husband Charles M. Butter, February 2.
Anne Heybey Wasciuk (John Wasciuk) on the death of her mother, Florence Gold Sack, February 4.
The Zand family on the death of Charlene Zand, February 4.

The Washtenaw Jewish community sends mazel tovs to:

Sara Koenig McLaughlin and John McLaughlin on the birth of their daughter, and to Rosalie and Ron Koenig on the birth of their granddaughter, Anne Gloria Koenig McLaughlin, January 26.
Zoe Ressler-Maerlender on her bat mitzvah, March 7.
Lily and Elle Wright on their b'not mitzvah, March 18.
Sue and Larry Adler on the birth of their granddaughter, Myla Simone Adler, daughter of Evan and Marina Adler.

Michelle Azar plays Ruth Bader Ginsburg

continued from page 1

had for rehearsals. So, it's been exciting to now have six months more opportunity to deepen. Over the break I finally got to read every single book that I had bought initially. And I just can't stop crying, realizing her [RBG's] far-reaching-ness, realizing her goodness, the way that she fought, but it wasn't even fought for the sake of fighting. It was just doing because it needed to get done. RBG said, "No, we can't let Rutgers University pay me less than the men because I have a husband with a good paying job." I am so grateful that my daughters are growing up intrinsically differently.

Slomovits: What has been the hardest and the best thing about this role?

Azar: One of the hardest things is not just reciting something; because you have to get it right. You can't say the Sixth Circuit if it was the Tenth Circuit. So, the ritualizing that I have to go through to remember numbers and then make them have meaning, having to backtrack on this education that wasn't of interest to me. And I had to get over a lot of shame around that. Truthfully, I was so ashamed for myself as a woman, and as a Jewish woman, and as a person that has an ear toward those in need.

Slomovits: You struggled comparing yourself to her?

Azar: Correct. Right on both ends, like who am I to jump into those shoes? How do I keep learning and learning so that I can feel confident to say the things I'm speaking about? I think that would be where Ruth would want us to start. What do you feel like you care about, and what do you feel like you want to know more about? What she was so good at is, she ate and slept and breathed these cases and these ideas. When she'd be at work, and the school would call, "You have to pick up James, he's in trouble in the office." She'd be like, "Call my husband." Amazing to imagine, to put yourself first like that. My friends and I grapple with this thing, how do we be superwomen? Ruth wasn't trying to be. She had two kids, but she knew she wasn't the cook in the family. Marty did all the cooking. She knew where her strength lay.

Slomovits: How many times have you performed the play?

Azar: Eight shows a week, pretty much all October and November, about 50 shows. I remember opening night, just completely terrified. My desk, that big beautiful Supreme Court desk sort of littered with hidden note cards in case I went off, because it's just me alone. (Laughter) But then I remember a weekend, a matinee, and I was like, "Ooh, something's cooking." We had this wonderful incubation with audiences in St. Petersburg, Florida, that just needed to be with her. You could feel it. That was heartbreaking, exhilarating and very emotional. Every single night I just bawled afterwards.

The whole ending of the play is really gorgeous in terms of what she's trying to convey. Rupert Holmes has done just an incredible job of lifting things verbatim, but then also imbuing it with this real life force and comedic sense. The first half of the play is about my, I'm going to say my, (laughter) my younger days, grappling with female subservience. If we enable any kind of subservience, we're enabling all of it. I realize that if I show where a man is being denied the same rights as a woman, how it champions women's rights. It champions abolishment of racism. It includes what we think may be a liberal agenda but is better for everybody. In the second half of the play where Scalia dies and we see that the Supreme Court, the pendulum is swinging more conservative, that's where I (RBG) realized that I have to speak out more on the dissenting side.

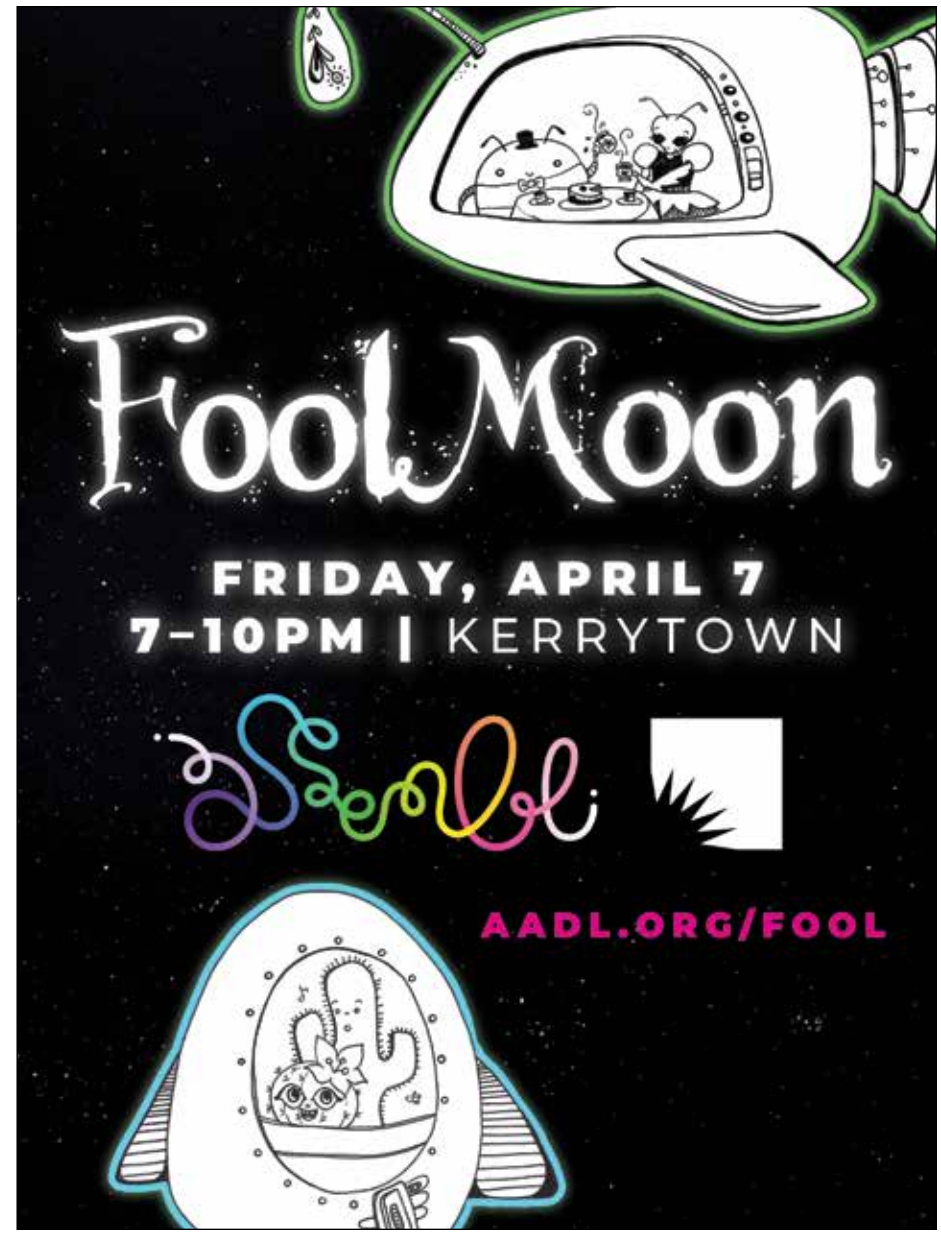
Slomovits: You're totally in this role! You're saying I, my, and we when you talk in her voice. Also, the promo pictures of you in the role, as RBG, are striking. You look so much like her.

Azar: It's true. When I came home in the middle of the runs, I could barely walk like myself. I changed a lot of my physical persona in the play. I never thought of myself as this method actress, but you have to embody this in order to really feel like you're doing this sincerely, because God help me if I get complacent with this person and this role. To play somebody that has been so significant in so many people's lives and is still so much in the zeitgeist, you've got to really honor that in every possible way.

Rupert [the playwright] said he started thinking about RBG many years ago. Then he and Scott Stander, the producer, were talking after Ruth passed away, and Scott said to Rupert, 'What if there's a solo show, because we're in the middle of a pandemic?' There was this fear, this question, what's going to happen to live theater and to ensemble pieces as we came out of the pandemic? So, Rupert went right into creating this play. That's when this really incubated for him. His sense of humor really is the one to capture Ruth.

If theater is for any kind of social change, this could be a great device for it. This stuff is not about politics. It's about our lives. The last page is all about empowering young people. That is the conceit of the play, that I'm speaking to a friend of my granddaughters. There's a whole part at the end where I say, "Look, I was wrong about a few things. I said this and I had to retract it." And I think that's an incredible gift too, especially for our young people to hear.

All Things Equal: The Life and Trials of Ruth Bader Ginsburg will be at The Michigan theater on March 14 at 7:30 p.m. For ticket information see, https://michtheater.org/events ■



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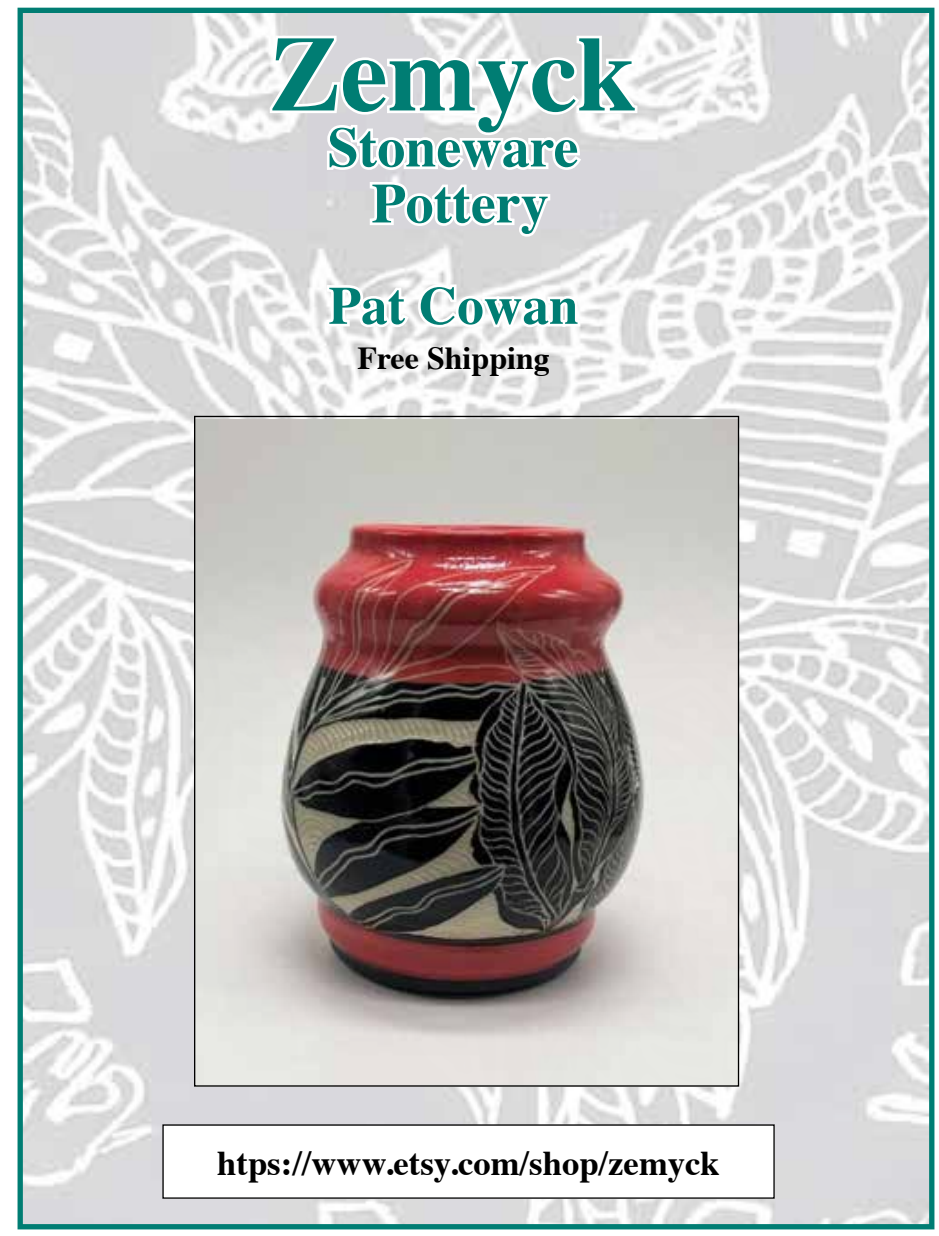

An initiative to mobilize community support towards the Ukrainian humanitarian crisis.

JFS
Jewish Family Services
of Washtenaw County

This initiative is funded in part through a grant from the Jewish Federations of North America and the Shapiro Foundation.

How do I form a N2N Team?

- Recruit a minimum of 5-8 volunteers
- Fundraise a minimum of $2,000-$5,000
- 6 month commitment

GET IN TOUCH

For more information, please contact Amanda Fahim at

afahim@jfsannarbor.org

734-881-2166

How does N2N benefit Ukrainians?

Neighbor to Neighbor Teams can offer assistance with...

- Securing and furnishing housing
- English language practice
- Employment Assistance
- Meet clothing needs
- Community Orientation and Navigation
- Immigration Needs

...and more!

Levels of Welcoming; Refugee Support

VOLUNTEERING

JFS is busier than ever serving the community's existing and emerging needs, including but not limited to support for food pantry and food delivery, refugee housing move-ins, bus training, community navigation, and more.

1

RESOURCE DRIVES

Donation drives allow individuals and groups to donate new, unused or used items to individuals who utilize JFS services. For example, personal care items, household items, and gift cards are all popular donation items that could keep people warm, safe, and fed.

2

WELCOME CIRCLES

A Welcome Circle is a group of 5-30 people who come together to provide wraparound support for a newly arrived family. Activities may include providing cultural orientation, ensuring they have basic necessities, job search assistance, community navigation, and more.

3

CO-SPONSORSHIP

A co-sponsor is a group of 30 or more people who come together to partner with JFS to provide core services to newly arrived families like greeting a refugee family at the airport, assisting them in securing and furnishing initial housing, connecting them with local services, and helping them acclimate to their new community.

4

www.jfsannarbor.org

JFS
Jewish Family Services
of Washtenaw County